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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

FRANCE—or rather the French Emperor (if the two can now be separated)—has risen considerably in English estimation since the news reached this country of the increased powers about to be given to the “Legislative Corps.” These powers, however, will be tolerated only as long as they are exercised in accordance with the Imperial will. We must not forget the Emperor’s frank declaration, on convening the Corps Legislatif

for the first time, that he would tolerate no factious opposition, which of course meant no opposition of any kind. Indeed, it has been found in the provinces that, practically, no deputy can be elected without the Imperial sanction, so great is the patronage and power of the prefects and other departmental authorities appointed directly by the central Government. In Paris, where the greatest amount of resistance to the Napoleonic system was to be expected, a Republican or an

Orleanist is returned here and there by one of the ungovernable arrondissements, whose electors would be likely to object to any candidate who enjoyed the favour of the ruling power, whatever that ruling power might be. But, on the whole, the Emperor governs his country just as he pleases. In the first instance, and immediately after his assumption of supreme power, he took care to render opposition next to impossible. Now that he has explained and “illustrated” his foreign policy



A PHYSICIAN AND PATIENT OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY — (FROM THE PICTURE BY JAN STEEN.)

by robbing an ally of two provinces, he has no further need of precautions. He knows that he has obtained the sympathies of his countrymen, and can fairly entrust them with such political power as he has lately conceded to them, being certain that it will only be made use of to increase his own prestige. It is a fine spectacle, undoubtedly, to see the ruler of a great nation enjoying the confidence of his subjects, and governing in harmonious accordance with the popular will; but what if the popular will be unjust and immoral? What if the confidence of the nation means that the nation is ready to sanction any act of aggression which the ruler may think he can commit with profit, whether in the shape of glory or of so many square miles of good Italian or German soil? Then Napoleon III. becomes a much more dangerous person to his neighbours than he was when it appeared to every one that his position on the throne was insecure, and that while interfering in the affairs of Europe and in the East he was still obliged to keep an eye on his own affairs at home. It is all very well to take an amiable view of the Imperial policy, and to say that the French are beginning to approve of it; it is for that very reason that we ought to fear it. Napoleonism includes, as its first and most important article, the extension of France to what are called its "natural limits." These "natural limits" are defined by the historians and geographers of the French empire; but *naturally* France has really no limits but those which are imposed upon her by her own weakness, or, what comes to the same thing, by the strength of her neighbours. Savoy was "naturally" French because the inhabitants speak a horrible French *patois*, and because the Savoyards (as it was pretended) wished to belong to France. The left bank of the Rhine is "naturally" French, because some Gallic tribes once settled there, but principally because the Rhine is a convenient boundary, and in spite of the fact that the actual inhabitants speak German and hate the French! There are at least four pleas on any one of which France may lay claim to any adjacent territory that she may desire to annex. First, there is the natural-boundary plea, on which she rests her title to the Rhine provinces; then there is the plea of identity of language, which would justify her in seizing any of the French cantons of Switzerland; thirdly, there is the plea of national inclination, as exhibited through universal suffrage, which may serve if the two others fail; and, lastly, there is the cynical, scandalous plea that was put forward for the annexation of Nice, and on which alone Genoa and the Island of Sardinia can be taken possession of—that France needs an increase of territory to preserve her "natural" political position in the west of Europe.

The foreign policy of the Emperor ever since he has been on the throne of France has been thoroughly Napoleonic, and it is for this reason that it is popular with his subjects, who are willing to give up all power as individuals at home, provided they can, as a nation, increase their influence abroad and extend their territory. If we choose to shut our eyes to the fact that there are no signs of the French army returning from Syria, that the French fleet before Gaeta has recently been increased, and that the French fleet before Gaeta has assumed a threatening attitude towards the Sardinians, then we may, of course, give credit to the Emperor Napoleon for all the peaceful intentions which he is so fond of professing; but to do this we must really forget what he has done, what he is doing, and that he belongs to the Napoleon family at all.

In the meanwhile the French Government journals are, as in duty bound, very grateful for the modicum of liberty of which his Imperial Majesty has just made a present to his subjects, and which some day may "even be extended to the productions of the press," as Figaro says. Until then it will always be very difficult to ascertain what the true sentiments of the educated classes in France really are on any political question; but we observe already that the *Revue des Deux Mondes*—by far the best and most independent periodical in France—attaches no great value to the recent concessions. It calls attention, in particular, to the double set of Ministers by which the Emperor and his policy are henceforth to be guarded. The silent hero of the Second of December is known to entertain a considerable contempt for mere talk; but, if there is to be talk, he evidently thinks that it ought to be good of its kind, but that it should be made a special study by those who profess it. Accordingly, he provides himself with so many talking and so many working Ministers. The former will have nothing to do and the latter nothing to say, and we have no doubt that the Emperor will reserve to himself the privilege of thinking for both. It is easy to see that, with these divided functions, Ministerial responsibility will, in fact, not exist. The working Minister will always be able to show that the talking Minister has not represented his acts in a true light, while the talking Minister will naturally maintain that, though he may be answerable for his own words, he cannot be called to account for another man's deeds. The Parisians speak irreverently of the Emperor's Ministers as his "tenors"—that is to say, the chief solo performers in his politico operatic company. We would rather say that they are his leading counsel, employed to address a jury of which the members all receive salaries from the Imperial defendant, who is at the same time their Judge. In future there will be Ministers to play the part of barristers, and Ministers to perform functions analogous to those of solicitors. The working Ministers will transact the great bulk of the Emperor's legal business, and will prepare his case, but the talking Ministers will appear for him in court. There are no parties in the French Parliament; and, when no opposition of any kind is tolerated, Ministerial explanation becomes a very simple affair indeed. It is quite understood that the duty of Ministers is first to carry out, and afterwards to defend, the Emperor's policy, and that the duty of the Senate and of the Legislative Corps is to approve of it.

"DOCTOR AND PATIENT."

OUR Engraving is from one of Jan Steen's famous pictures, and represents a scene which serves well to illustrate the faithful and life-like rendering characteristic of the great artist.

The humour of the picture is so true and unexaggerated that we recognise it at once as the work of a great master of the craft and a close and appreciative observer, while the quaint costumes and accessories of the age of which it is a reminiscence only heighten the effect. The "Doctor" is considered one of Jan Steen's best works, and, indeed, exhibits a simplicity and truthfulness which is always associated with works of high art. The grave doctor feeling the pulse of his patient, while he so seriously advises her what remedies to adopt, must need all his professional gravity to look with very genuine commiseration at the jolly damsel who droops her head on the pillow and extends her robust arm. It may be that she wishes to arouse the sympathy of some not-too-ardent lover by the report of her sickness, but never a word will the worthy doctor breathe of her deception.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The 2nd of December has passed by without the Liberal manifesto which rumour had announced, and the French press is still in the enjoyment of that degree of freedom which M. Granier de Cassagnac declares to be sufficient.

The *Moniteur* publishes a circular, addressed by the Count de Persigny to the prefects on entering upon his functions as Minister of the Interior. In this circular he draws attention to the generosity of the act of the 24th of November, which, he says, prepares the country for the peaceful exercise of liberties whose development the popular throne of the Napoleons is bound to protect. Count Persigny recommends the prefects to neglect nothing to complete the work of reconciling parties.

The great question of internal politics with the French at this moment is whether or not a dissolution of the Legislative Body ought to be resorted to in consequence of the reforms introduced on the 28th of November. The whole Liberal press supports this proposition, which it justifies on the ground that the present Chamber has been elected for purposes very different from those which the French national representatives henceforward are to carry out. The Government organs, the *Constitutionnel* in particular, are of opinion that such a step is altogether uncalled for, and that the Government has no thought of acceding to the proposition. But they have not succeeded in quieting the demand. The *Pays* says:—"The report that the assembling of the Corps Legislatif will be hastened is incorrect. It will take place, as usual, in the beginning of February. The Senate, however, will meet earlier, in order to regulate the execution of the resolutions contained in the Imperial decree of the 24th of November."

M. Baroche, President of the Council of State, having the rank of Minister, takes the title of Minister without portfolio.

The *Moniteur* publishes a decree conferring upon Marshal Vaillant the title of Minister of the Emperor's Household.

The Emperor is still at Compiègne.

SPAIN.

The *Espana* publishes numerous letters from inhabitants of the province of Biscay energetically protesting against the projects of annexation to France contained in letters which had been inserted in the *Espana*.

In a late sitting of the Cortes Senor Revero proposed that any acts of the authorities which might obstruct the lawful actions of the political parties should be considered as a violation of the representative system. The Cortes rejected this proposition, and the Minister of the Interior then declared that democracy had no legal existence in Spain.

AUSTRIA.

The official *Wiener Zeitung* says, "We are authorised to declare that the rumours concerning negotiations on the cession of Venetia for a pecuniary indemnity are unfounded, and that, as a matter of course, there can be no question of selling a Crown land."

The same journal publishes the convention between France, Austria, and Sardinia for carrying out the partition of the debts and assets of the Monte Lombardo. The liabilities amount to 99 millions lire, of which sum two-fifths are to be charged to Austria and three-fifths to Sardinia. The assets, which are also to be divided, amount to 9½ millions lire.

The Austrian Government has just accorded its agents abroad an addition of 15 per cent to their salaries, in consideration of the loss to which they are subjected by the rate of exchange for Austrian notes. What that loss is may be judged from the fact that a gold piece of 20fl., the nominal value of which is eight Austrian florins, is now worth at Vienna eleven florins.

The reports from Hungary continue to show the most determined spirit on the part of the Hungarians in defending their right to the whole of their Constitution, as it stood in 1848, nothing more or less. Count Caroli, Obergespan of the Comitatus of Pesth, has just presided over a preliminary meeting of members of the Comitatus Assembly, where this spirit irresistibly broke forth. After a warm debate, it was resolved "That the inhabitants of the comitatus would not yield a hair's-breadth of their rights and laws, and the wishes they expressed in 1848." It was also resolved that all further steps should be determined upon by the general congregation of the comitatus, which is to assemble on the 10th of December.

The *Wiener Zeitung* informs us that "there were such lamentable excesses at Debreczin on the evening of the 26th (ult.) that military intervention was necessary. A torchlight procession in honour of Count Caroli, the Obergespan of the Szathmar county, who was passing through Debreczin on his way to Szathmar, led to the excesses. Between twenty and thirty persons were arrested. The necessary measures for preventing similar occurrences have been taken."

The *Vaterland* states that the result of the interference of the troops was that about twenty persons were wounded and some few killed. The private information of the correspondent of the *Times* on the subject is to the following effect:—

At seven o'clock in the evening of the 26th inst. a vast crowd assembled in front of the hotel in Debreczin, and loudly cheered Count Caroli. At a later hour—probably at nine o'clock—the people went to the County House, from the front of which they pulled down the Imperial arms, and trod them under foot. In the course of the evening visits were paid to almost all the Government offices in the place, and in some of them sad excesses were committed. The tobacco in the Government magazines was destroyed, and the books in the tax-office are said to have shared the same fate. No attack was made on the police-office at Debreczin, but every window in the house of the burgomaster of the place was broken. The people offered no opposition to the troops, but many of them were wounded while trying to escape from the scene of action. It is even said that a few persons were killed. The levy of recruits is said to have been the immediate cause of the outbreak at Debreczin; but it cannot be doubted that the movement was a revolutionary one, as thousands of voices cried "Long live Kossuth!" "Long live Garibaldi!" On the same day, and almost at the same hour, there were disturbances at Eperies.

News from Szegedin, Nagykovács, Ketskemet, Arad, and Csongrad states that demonstrations against the Government officials had taken place. In consequence of disturbances at Waitzen, a serious conflict had taken place between the military and the people, in which numbers were wounded on both sides.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Government lately called on the different Chambers of Commerce of the monarchy to give their opinion and advice on a commercial treaty with France. Their reports have now been received by the Ministry, and the negotiations are about to commence.

SWITZERLAND.

The National party in the Federal Assembly of Switzerland has carried the Presidential elections in the National Council, or popular House.

Those Swiss mercenaries who have returned from Naples and the Papal States, as Sardinian prisoners of war, to their mother country, are, according to instructions issued by the Federal Council, to be prosecuted for violation of the Swiss Foreign Enlistment Act. The offers they had made to Holland to enter the ranks of the Dutch army in the East Indies have been rejected at the Hague.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The Marquis de Lavalette insists on the extension of the French occupation of Syria. The Porte refuses to accede to this demand. The other Ambassadors maintain an apparently neutral attitude. Fued Pacha will remain in Syria during the winter. A Christian Sheikh had been appointed the new Kaimakan of the Lebanon.

Somewhat threatening news reaches us from Montenegro. The Vladika has addressed his Guards, and promised them an early opportunity to show their valour—of course against the Turks; and a rumour was floating at Cattaro that secret negotiations were carried on between the Vladika and the French Government for the cession of Godeinje, in the district of Ceraizka, to the latter, which certainly has repeatedly betrayed the value it attaches to a naval station in the Adriatic.

Intelligence from the Principalities states that at Craiova, in Little Wallachia, an émeute had taken place, in which twenty of the principal merchants of the town had been killed by the militia. At Jassy Prince Couza had caused the Archbishop Metropolitan to be arrested, and conveyed between two gendarmes to a convent, where he is confined. M. Cogelnitchano, President of the Council, has been treated in the same manner.

The *Pays* gives the following particulars respecting the French troops in Syria:—

The quartering of our troops at Deir-el-Kamar, Bet-Eddin, and Kab-Elias, has been effected in the best possible manner. At Kab-Elias the Chasseurs of Africa have converted into a guardroom the cave to which the prophet Elisha withdrew to avoid the anger of Jezebel. At Beyrout the Zouaves have already built a theatre and singing-clothes. At Zahleh the troops are installed in the cathedral, the only building which escaped destruction by the Druses. On all sides our soldiers are engaged in making new roads or repairing old ones. It is expected that in three months they will have done more for Syria than the Turks in three centuries.

INDIA.

A telegram from Bombay, dated Nov. 12, says:—"Disturbances are imminent on account of the collection of the income tax. All business is stopped."

Bombay papers to the 10th ult. have reached us. We take the following from the *Overland Bombay Times and Standard* of that date:—

We are afraid we are about to enter upon a period of great perplexity throughout India. Information has been received from Neemuch that a famine is imminent in the districts round it, and that the Durbars of Kotah, Dhar, and Bursee have refused, in self-defence as we presume, to allow the transit of provisions across their frontiers. We understand that Neemuch has but fifteen days' food left, and is in danger of being starved. Happily, the transport-train can carry grain in ten days from Doolia to the station, and we presume orders have already been issued for its relief. The Durbars we have named have offered to repay the advances received by their subjects for the supply of provisions under contract, but have resolutely refused to allow any grain to leave their territories. The policy is shortsighted and unworthy, but it would be hard to persuade the native mind that it was not justified by the seeming necessity of their circumstances.

There is every appearance of the approach of a more than usually cold season in Bombay. It is now only the 9th of November, and the temperature is as low as we usually find it in the middle of December. The Baroda Railway works have been summarily suspended and all the establishment dismissed. There are several rumours afloat as to the cause of this suspension, but nothing is known with certainty, and the Government guards its information with the most jealous care.

AMERICA.

THE SECESSION MOVEMENT.

Party feeling still runs high in the United States. South Carolina, although her banks have ceased to discount bills and many of her planters to export cotton, still presses her determination to secede from the Union. At Charleston the preparations for the convention are progressing, and cavalry and infantry are drilling. Mobile is unanimous for secession. In Georgia and Alabama the disunion feeling is still very strong. Still, there is a large union party in Georgia, where great meetings have been held to protest against a rupture.

Serious dissensions, it is said, have taken place in Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet. The President, so the story goes, is disposed to employ measures of coercion to prevent South Carolina from seceding. In this he is supported by the northern members of his Cabinet, but his southern colleagues insist that South Carolina is entitled to leave the Union without molestation if she desires to adopt such a policy. The fact is that the Constitution has made a provision for such a contingency as the secession of a State, and therefore the question, as far as the action of the Federal Government is concerned, is beset with difficulties.

In the meanwhile, a grand demonstration in honour of Mr. Lincoln has been held at Springfield, Illinois. This brought out Mr. Lincoln himself, who made a few remarks, adjuring American citizens to remember that they are brothers of a common country. It is, of course, impossible to attach to these remarks any peculiar significance; but Mr. Trumbull, the Senator for Illinois, who delivered a speech on the same occasion, may be regarded as an exponent of Mr. Lincoln's policy. The Senator asserted that the new President would be found a firm supporter of the Union and the Constitution, and that he had no intention of interfering with the institutions of the South. Mr. Trumbull spoke with great severity of the attitude which South Carolina had assumed; declared that secession was a constitutional "impossibility;" and stigmatised her pretended indignation at the non-fulfilment of the Fugitive Slave Law as "a sham," founded on the fact that, as an interior Slave State, she does not suffer from this circumstance, the almost exclusive sufferers being the border States. Mr. Trumbull warned the disunionists of the punishment which awaited treason; and concluded by recapitulating the leading points of the Republican programme. His speech will no doubt produce a great impression, and be generally received as an expression of Mr. Lincoln's own opinions.

Mr. Douglas, one of the defeated candidates for the presidency, in a letter to the people of New Orleans, argues that Mr. Lincoln's election is no ground for secession, and that the new President will be practically powerless to do anything against the rights of the South.

The Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, and Norfolk banks have suspended. The Charleston banks have partially stopped payment.

Five hundred Kansas men, under Captain Montgomery, are ravaging the Missouri borders, with the avowed intention of running off all slaves. General Harney is taking measures for their extermination.

The President's message for the opening of Congress was ready.

The following letter from Washington, published by the *Auburn (N. Y.) Advertiser*, may contain the philosophy of the secession movement—slightly exaggerated:—

I perceive from the New York city papers that the people of that exposed metropolis are very much concerned about the action of the Legislatures of South Carolina and Georgia. Being somewhat familiar with the habits of the Southern people, and with their pecuniary as well as their political condition at present, I think I am able to assure you that after they shall have got an extension of the time for the payment of their large New York indebtedness, they will be very willing to consent to stay in the Union another year.

The fact is that the drought during the past season in the South has so shortened their crops, the cotton crop particularly, that Southern planters and dealers are unable to meet their New York paper. They cannot get relief at their own banks for the reason that they have exhausted their credit there already. You may be surprised when I tell you that nearly one-half of the negroes in South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, and many in Mississippi, are mortgaged to Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. . . . If you can tell me how long it will take those persons to get an extension, you will be able to tell very nearly how long the disunion panic will continue. I should think some of your friends might be sharp enough to profit by this in the Stock Board, &c.

GARIBOLDIAN OUTRAGE.—"I am informed," says a correspondent, "that the officers of the Royal army at Naples have come to the resolution to abstain from the theatre, because, evening after evening, when the orchestra struck up the first notes of the Savoy fanfare, the Royal anthem of the new Italian dynasty, crowds of red shirts, Mazzinians in disguise, set up such an uproar of groans and hisses as drowned the greatest efforts of the band of players, and never ceased till the Garibaldi hymn was substituted, instead of the obnoxious Royal strain. The Piedmontese officers first stood aghast at the wanton outrage, then remonstrated, then came to blows with the disturbers, and sabres were even seen gleaming in the dusk outside the playhouse. To avoid useless contention, however, these brave, self-denying fellows have been privy advised to give up their evening recreation; and the Garibaldi hymn, and the red-shirted Mazzinian blackguards, who only put on the Garibaldi uniform to dishonour it, are left masters of the field."

A BULGARIAN SCHEME.—To the items of local occurrence during the week I may just add allusion to the threatened secession of the entire Bulgarian community from the Greek to the Romish communion, in consequence of the Porte's refusal to grant the body a separate hierarchy of its own. On Sunday last 150 representatives of the "nation" met in one of their churches in the Fanar, and unanimously resolved that, unless the prayer of their final petition for administrative separation from the Greek Patriarchate were conceded, the whole Bulgarian people would embrace Catholicism in fifteen days. As the matter, thus pressed, is under fresh consideration at the Porte, I need not now do more than refer to this vigorous step on the part of the "non-contents."—*Letter from Constantinople.*

THE AFFAIRS OF ITALY.
THE SICILIES.

Victor Emmanuel has left for Palermo, and has met with a reception of truly Sicilian fervour on the part of the Palermitans, and, if the number is not exaggerated, of 400,000 people, who had assembled from all other parts of the island. But he was soon to return to Naples, for the reason that his presence is imperatively called for by reactionary as well as revolutionary outbreaks. It has already been necessary to place the Abruzzi in a state of siege, and the Piedmontese have taken to organising flying columns and guerrilla companies to be able to act energetically against the Royalist movements in the various provinces. On the other hand, Garibaldi's friend, General Sirtori, has addressed an exhortation to his old companions in arms, that the laws of military discipline must not be disregarded. A reactionary demonstration at Naples itself, on Thursday week, had not much importance, however, and was quickly suppressed. Priests only and lazzaroni took part in it, and the latest news is, that the country was more tranquil.

The English fleet saluted King Victor Emmanuel on his departure for Sicily. This homage is said to have created a great sensation. In a proclamation to the Sicilians, Victor Emmanuel alludes to the fact of some of his ancestors having reigned over the island, and promises to establish institutions for promoting public morality and to respect the privileges of the Sicilian Church.

The Consulta, of which Poerio has been appointed Vice-President, met on Tuesday, and the explanations given by the Government produced a good impression on the country. As to the projects of the Sardinian Government with regard to the future administrative division of the peninsula they appear to be briefly these. The whole State is to be divided into at least ten "regions," to be subdivided into provinces and districts. The "regions" are not to be exclusively administrative divisions; their autonomy is likewise to be preserved in all local questions of legislation, as has hitherto been the case with regard to Tuscany. The ten regions are Piedmont, Liguria, Sardinia, Lombardy, Parma, Modena, Tuscany, the Romagna, Naples, and Sicily. Umbria and the Marches may, perhaps, be added as an eleventh.

The Neapolitans made a sortie from Gaeta on the 28th ult., in order to capture some strategic positions, and were repulsed with great loss. There was a talk of burning the suburbs on account of their sheltering the Piedmontese from the fire of the garrison. The dearth of provisions was increasing. It was said that the King was expecting money. The siege is now being pushed more vigorously. On the 4th the Sardinian batteries opened fire on the fortress, which was briskly replied by the besieged.

It is denied that Francis II. has ruptured a bloodvessel. But letters from Naples of the 27th state that the life of the King is in serious danger, and that one of the most celebrated physicians at Naples had proceeded to Gaeta to give his advice.

The Count of Syracuse died at Pisa on the 4th, from a sudden stroke of apoplexy. The Count was uncle to Francis II., and both privately and publicly tried to persuade his nephew against that cruel and tyrannous course which drove his people to rebellion.

The following address to the Lieutenant-General is now in circulation for signatures:—

Sir,—The Neapolitan people in making this revolution, which has driven away a dynasty which had governed it for a century and a half, have shown that great wants have to be satisfied in the moral and material interests of the people. The governments of transition which have succeeded one another during the revolution, even if they had cherished the idea of universal amelioration, could not have thoroughly carried it into effect, as well from the shortness of time as from the exceptional condition of the situation. As soon as the plebiscite had established the Government of the King, which had been proclaimed by the revolution, it was hoped that men would have been called to the councils of the Government, who, from being impressed with a sense of the necessities of the people would have been able to suggest the mode of satisfying them. Amongst so many have been called men who, though eminent for capacity and morality, yet, whether from their long absence from the country, or that they are surrounded by a compound of every epoch, prove that they have not only forgotten but are completely ignorant of the true causes of the sufferings of the people. As the Lieutenant of the King, representing a Government which hopes to repair the evils of the past, you are entreated to dismiss the councillors of lieutenantancy, and surround it with others who, in conjunction with yourself, may form the felicity of this people.

The following is the order of the day lately addressed to the Army of the South by General Sirtori, its Commander:—

Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the South!—There is a talk of demonstrations, provoked by the enemies of Italy, in which you are invited to take part—you who have so well deserved of Italy. You first have the merit and glory of having with your blood inaugurated in these provinces the Government desired by the nation. "Italy and Victor Emmanuel" is the motto of your flag. To Victor Emmanuel, who loves you as children, you owe love and filial reverence, and you owe to him the honour which is due to the King of Italy, desired for so many centuries. Soldiers! if any one of you, profiting by the difficulties inherent to the situation, seeks to excite you to demonstrations of dissatisfaction, regard him as your enemy and the enemy of your country. Self-denial and discipline are the first virtues of the soldier. Discipline demands that every officer and soldier should be at his proper post. He who, forgetful of his honour and his country, leaves it will be punished with the greatest severity.

PRINCE MURAT AND THE NEAPOLITAN THRONE.

Prince Murat is not desirous that his pretensions to the throne of Naples shall be forgotten. In a letter to a friend he states that, though urged by many to take an active part in the affairs of Naples, he had refrained from doing so, lest he might create an obstacle to the work of Italian unification. He deprecates, however, that the advent of popular sovereignty should have been accompanied with so much corruption and violence, and charges the coalesced parties that now predominate in Italy with being more tyrannical than the Governments they have overthrown, and warns them of the consequences. To the Prince the present attempt at unification of Italy appears violent and artificial, and he believes that federation alone can produce the unity destined to reconcile local liberties and interests with the power of national authority. That Prince Murat should disapprove of the unification of Italy was to be expected, as thereby all the hopes which he may cherish of snatching the Neapolitan crown are effectually crushed.

THE PAPAL STATES.

It seems that cash, at last, begins seriously to run short at Rome. The Paris journals contain a notice by Messrs. Rothschild that the Papal Government has not yet remitted the interest, due on the 1st, on the late Roman loan.

All reports from Rome agree in stating that a very serious split has taken place in the opinions of the Sacred College, and that the Secretary of State, Antonelli, has been violently attacked by his brother Cardinals.

The French army is active in its vocation of oppressor and repressor of the Roman population, and has again reoccupied Acquafredda, Bagnara, and other towns in the province of Viterbo. Some 700 Pontifical gendarmes were also traversing the latter province, whose pay the Pope will be enabled to disburse out of the sum of £65,000 of Peter's pence recently sent to him by lovers of liberty in America.

The Archbishop of Naples has left Rome, having been invited to return to Naples.

The Turin correspondent of the *Débat* states that a great topic of conversation there, within the last few days, has been a somewhat mysterious mission now being discharged at Rome by M. Ghislieri, an officer attached to the household of the young Sardinian Prince:—

The gentleman named is related to two of the Cardinals, and belongs to a family which boasts of having had a Pope among the number, who was afterwards canonised as St. Pius V. The *Unità Italiana* even goes so far as to state the following as the bases on which the negotiation in question is proceeding:—

"The Quirinal to belong to Victor Emmanuel, and the Vatican to the Pope. The Pope to recognise Victor Emmanuel as King of Italy. The latter to engage never to transfer his capital to Rome, and not to call the citizens to vote on a plebiscite. The city to continue subject to the Pope, under the protection of the arms of Italy."

The correspondent, however, says that matters are not so far advanced, and that the Sardinian Government is under no deception as to the difficulties and tediousness of negotiating with the Holy See.

THE CONSTITUTION OF HESSE.

The Committee of the Second Chamber appointed to discuss the question of the Constitution of the country have unanimously made the following proposals to the Chamber:—

1st. That the Legislative Assembly does not consider itself the legitimate representative of the country, and cannot, therefore, transact any public business.

2nd. That representations should be made to the Elector, frankly exposing the ideas and wishes of the country; and that the Elector should be requested to re-establish at an early period the constitutional rights of Electoral Hesse, which until 1850 had been recognised as valid. Should any changes be found necessary, the Elector should agree upon the same, conjointly with a representative assembly to be convoked on the basis of the Electoral Law of 1849.

THE PRUSSIAN POLICE.

THE Court of Appeal of Berlin has just given its decision in a case which has excited an unusual degree of interest, not only in Prussia, but throughout Germany. A director of the Berlin police, M. Stieber, having been charged with official misconduct and abuse of his functions, the lower Court decided that the evidence adduced was insufficient; and on this ground of defective proofs of the several heads of the accusation the case against M. Stieber was dismissed. He was not fully acquitted, but the charges were held as "not proven." Against this decision the prosecution appealed to the Senate of the Criminal Court, and the investigation was renewed before this higher tribunal. The Procureur du Rio, M. Schwarck, conducted the prosecution officially, and his address to the Court contained a series of revelations of the despotism and corruption of the police administration in Berlin that have caused an extraordinary sensation in that capital. It is not that the public are surprised by the allegations—that the police was all-powerful, and that its power was abused by its agents and officers, was too well known before; but such an exposure of the system has never yet been made on high official authority. In support of the special charges against M. Stieber, the Public Prosecutor asserts that the Prussian Police Department has for several years systematically set itself above the law; that it has arrested, illegally and arbitrarily, imprisoned, and detained in confinement any person it pleased, and for indefinite periods of time; and that individuals so arrested, without having any formal charge brought against them, after the lapse of weeks or months, have been released without judicial inquiry.

In some cases persons politically suspected, after having been thus arrested and imprisoned, have been expelled from the Prussian territory without even the semblance of a trial. It is stated also that in Berlin the police have frequently interfered in the most imperious manner between opposing parties in questions of debt, and, by threats of various kinds, have compelled them to offer or accept terms of settlement that caused them serious pecuniary loss and damage.

Another charge was connected with the theft of the Prince of Prussia's papers some time back. In this case Stieber was declared to have kept people in prison on suspicion for as much as two months and then to have dismissed them without any formal hearing. His defence to this was that the papers were stolen at the instigation of a foreign Embassy, and that the inquiry was conducted in an irregular manner at the express command of the Minister of Justice.

In short, the picture of the Prussian police, drawn by the official pencil, is that of an *imperium in imperio*, continually overriding the written law, vexatiously meddlesome, irresponsible, and tyrannical. The specific facts that, in the case of M. Stieber, support the more general allegations are as follow:—The Public Prosecutor states that when he was appointed to his office in 1853 he found the law relating to freedom of the person (part of the constitution as settled in 1850) had become a dead letter. He endeavoured to enforce on the Police Department some degree of observance of that law by demanding that, in the case of any arrest, the party should be brought before a Judge d'Instruction within the term legally fixed. Conferences were held between the judicial and the police authorities on this subject, but they led to nothing. In the course of the discussions M. Stieber, representing both the opinion and practice of the police, said the enactment of 1850 was an absurd and stupid law, and that the twenty-four hours it appointed as the time within which a prisoner must be charged, in the first instance, before a magistrate, was much too brief, and therefore the whole law must be set aside; and this the Police Department has always done. The defective evidence, however, has compelled the Court of Appeal to confirm the first decision, and the case is dismissed. But the statements of the Public Prosecutor have aroused so much public indignation that the Government has been obliged to act extra-judicially, and a Ministerial order has deprived M. Stieber of all his functions.

IRELAND.

BANQUET AT LIMERICK TO THE BRIGADEMEN.—This demonstration, at which Lamoricière, Cardinal Wiseman, and Major O'Reilly were not present, came off on Monday night. The telegraphic account of the banquet speaks of it as a complete success; but this it could not have been, when all the principal persons invited remained away; even Smith O'Brien could not be deluded into presiding over the demonstration.

MURDER IN THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK.—A horrid murder was perpetrated on Sunday night at Brittas Castle, in the county of Limerick. The unfortunate victim was a labourer named Michael Fleming, whose head was almost divided in two by a blow with the edge of a spade. The murderer is as yet unknown.

THE PROVINCES.

GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION.—A terrible accident happened at Norwich on Saturday evening. A Mr. Harrison, gunmaker in that town, having placed a large quantity of gunpowder and fireworks behind his counter, left the place for a few minutes in charge of a boy, during which time the whole of the dangerous materials exploded and reduced the shop to ruins. Of course the poor boy was killed. Several other persons were seriously injured, and much of the adjoining property was damaged.

ESCAPE FROM PRISON.—A prisoner named Foggy lately escaped from the Leeds Borough Gaol. Instead of leaving his cell to attend service in the chapel along with the other prisoners he remained behind, and when he found the course clear, came out of his cell, walked along a corridor, and ascended a spiral staircase, by which means he obtained access to the roof of the gaol. He then, by means of a rope of cocoanut fibre, succeeded in letting himself down, a depth of about thirty feet, on to the wall of the female exercising-yard, along which he walked until he reached the outer wall of the gaol, and, with the aid of another similar rope, he dropped on to terra firma, a depth of twenty feet, and got clear off.

EXTRAORDINARY ENDURANCE.—Mr. Mease, of Hutton Rudby, was accidentally caught, a few days ago, by a part of the machinery of his mill, and had his arm fearfully mangled and crushed. He extricated himself and, shortly afterwards entered into arrangements with a person calling himself the Rev. William Simpson, whose testimonials were highly satisfactory. This worthy accordingly made his appearance, bringing nothing with him but an empty carpet bag, and a doleful story of having lost his luggage on the railway; and Mr. Bradford not only procured him excellent lodgings, but left a quantity of plate for his use in his absence. Mr. Simpson's first attack was on a neighbouring clergyman for a shirt, after which he patronised several tradesmen in devices for clothing, boots, confectionery, groceries, &c. After two or three Sundays, however, the Bishop of Salisbury's request to have an inspection of his letters of orders became too pressing to be pleasant, and, finding the place getting too warm for him, he suddenly decamped with his carpet bag full of Mr. Bradford's plate, and no end of packages, the fruit of his raids at Doves. Two or three very impertinent letters to the people whom he had enjoyed were left on his table. It is now known that the fellow, who has been living in this way some years, is not a clergyman at all, but the son of a bailiff named Burch, living in the neighbourhood of Plymouth, where the swindler was for some time a linen-draper's assistant. His testimonials were of course forged.

A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.—The Curate of Rushall, in Wiltshire, Mr. Bradford, finding himself obliged to leave home in consequence of ill-health, advertised a few weeks since for a clergyman to perform his duties, and shortly afterwards entered into arrangements with a person calling himself the Rev. William Simpson, whose testimonials were highly satisfactory.

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THE DISTRESS IN COVENTRY.—A short time since it was estimated, from some very reliable returns which were gathered, that the total number of weavers and others employed in the ribbon trade throughout the weaving district, of which Coventry is the centre, was 30,000; of this number it was calculated that only about 10,000 were in work, and that the pecuniary loss which at that time the town had sustained by the extremely depressed state of its staple trade amounted to no less than £280,000. These calculations were made in September last, since which period till the present time the trade has gradually become more and more depressed, the ranks of the unemployed have been daily recruited, and the inhabitants of the city have been subjected to a still greater degree of impoverishment than that which they had before experienced. The wages now paid to those who are in work are from 30 to 40, 50, and even 60 per cent lower than those which were paid prior to the strike in June last. The Lord Lieutenant of the county has appealed to the public on behalf of the starving people.

A VOLUNTEER USING HIS BAYONET.—On Saturday night two men named Smith and Watson, employed by the Great Northern Railway at Doncaster, quarrelled at a beerhouse, and Watson was turned out of the house. Smith left in a short time to go home, when Watson, who had on his volunteer uniform, and carried a bayonet, drew it, and stabbed Smith in the arm, at the same time saying, "I will stab you in the heart!" He then made off. Smith is much injured, but it is thought that there is nothing fatal to be apprehended. Watson has not since been heard of.

WELL PUNISHED.—At the Maidstone Assizes, Thomas Bratbury, 28, soldier, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with setting fire to a barn and other buildings, three stacks of wheat, a stack of barley, and two stacks of hay at Gillingham. The prosecutor said that the fire had done damage to the extent of £2000. Mr. Justice Byles, looking over the depositions, said that it seemed that the prisoner had committed the act under the impression that he would escape the service to which he belonged, but he had made a most miserable mistake, for he would now be a slave for the rest of his life. The prisoner was then ordered to be kept in penal servitude for the term of his natural life.

ANOTHER STRIKE.—A demand has been made by the colliers of the West Riding for an advance of 10 per cent on their present rate of wages, coupled with the alternative that if not at once conceded they will cease work. On the other hand, the colliery-owners protest their inability to grant the increased pay required, and state that, if insisted on by the workmen, the pits must be closed.

SCENE AT THE MOUTH OF THE TYNE.—Intelligence from Shields, dated Monday afternoon, says:—"The greatest excitement has prevailed in this seaport, and, indeed, in all the seaports along this line of coast, since yesterday at noon, in consequence of the arrival of a large fleet of light vessels off the harbour in a gale of wind. Since this time yesterday (one p.m.) above 200 sail of light vessels have reached this harbour alone. The sea has been breaking with great fury across the bars of the harbour, and the spectacle witnessed from here, as the vessels dashed one after the other amongst the raging waters on the bar, and struggling for their lives, rolled and tumbled into the port, has been very exciting. This morning, between six and seven o'clock, the *Junco*, of Southampton, in running for the harbour, unfortunately got too far to the northward and drove upon a reef of rocks under Tynemouth Castle. Both the Shields life-boats, fully manned with Tyne pilots, put out to the assistance of the crew; but, on account of the dangerous position in which the vessel was lying, they were unable to approach her. In this emergency the coast-guard and the Tynemouth boatmen got out the rockets, and succeeded in throwing a line aboard the vessel, by which means the crew were saved. This is the only serious casualty that has occurred; but a great deal of damage has been done by vessels running foul of each other in the harbour."

A BRUTE.—A brutal attempt has been made at Lynn by a man named Robert Ward to murder Emma Rayner, landlady of a tavern in the town. A frightful gash was inflicted by Ward in the throat of his victim, with whom he was on terms of the closest intimacy. When he was taken into custody, a few minutes afterwards, he remarked to the police-officer, "I wish she had died!" The wound in the poor woman's neck was six inches in length, but she is recovering. The cause of the outrageous act is not very clear, but it is supposed to be jealousy.

SALE OF A WIFE.—A day or two ago a shoemaker, of Blackburn, named Christopher Charleston, who had been married about four months, but did not live on the happiest terms with his wife, put her up to auction, a veterinary surgeon officiating as "knight of the hammer." A baker named Joseph Smith had her knocked down to him for £40, and two 5s. bowls of whisky punch. A memorandum of the sale was drawn up.

EXTRAORDINARY SUICIDE AT ALDERSHOT.—An inquest was held at Aldershot yesterday week touching the death of Samuel Hillier, paymaster-sergeant in the 9th Lancers, who had committed suicide by firing in his mouth a pistol loaded with blank cartridge. The following letter, addressed to a comrade, was read:—"Dear Cliff,—I suppose I am the last man in the world you would imagine to commit such a deed; but, under my assumed gaiety, I have been frightfully miserable for the last six months. Besides, what have I to live for? My poor mother, the only person on earth I cared for, is dead. As to death, I look at it as calmly in the face as I would a number I report. It is a most remarkable thing, but I really believe I'm poison-proof. About ten days ago I took half an ounce of laudanum, enough to poison a horse; it had no effect on me. After that I took eight grains of opium; again no effect except a slight drowsiness. Then four of morphia; no effect. I then took five grains of Lig. Opida. Lidatirus, with the same result. My last mode of exit is a sure one. I know the exact position of the heart, and if a ball doesn't penetrate the centre it's strange to me. I am sure you will say 'What a fool to do such a thing!' but my life is truly miserable. When I went to London and heard for certainty of Josephine's marriage with a man I have above all men I was nearly driven mad; for, although parted from her for more than six years, I love her more than ever, but yet I accuse her for marrying the man I hate. Good by, good by, Cliff. God bless you.—Yours, not perfectly sane,—SAM. HILLIER." The jury returned a verdict of "Felo de se." The deceased, who was a young man respectably connected, had rendered himself very popular amongst the soldiers by his amiability of disposition. It is said that he was a defaulter to the extent of £7.

CHARGES OF FORGERY AGAINST A LIVERPOOL MERCHANT.—Richard Powell, of the firm of Scott, Powell, and Co., tea-merchants, of Liverpool, has been examined on a charge of forgery. It appeared from the evidence adduced that the firm of Scott, Powell, and Co. had dealings with Messrs. Absalom, Crocker, and Townsend, tea-merchants, of London. The latter firm, becoming dissatisfied with the want of regularity in the settlement of accounts, applied to Messrs. Scott, Powell, and Co. for a guarantee that their claims would be met. At first it was proposed that Mr. John Scott, sen. (father of the Scott of the firm) should sign the guarantee. This, however, he objected to do, on the ground that he had already entered into a similar engagement, and ultimately it was arranged by Messrs. Absalom, Crocker, and Co. to take bills with the indorsement of Mr. Scott, sen. Three bills were accordingly prepared, one for £462 16s. 2d., another for £482 2s., and a third for £482 1s. 6d. They were prepared by Scott, Powell, and Co., and the endorsements placed upon the back. They were then sent to London, where they were accepted and indorsed by Absalom, Crocker, and Townsend. When they became due they were honoured, but on application being made to Mr. Scott, sen., he declared that he had never signed them. Application was made to Messrs. Scott, Powell, and Co., but Mr. Scott was not to be found. Powell, however, was apprehended shortly afterwards by detective officer Laycock, and when told he was charged with having forged the name of John Scott, sen., to a guarantee for £3000, and to a bill of exchange for £462 16s. 2d., the prisoner said, "I have nothing whatever to do with it. I have several times cautioned Mr. Scott about that before now." When taken to the police-station and searched Laycock found upon him three tickets for luggage "left" at the railway-station, and on proceeding thither the officer discovered three portmanteaus containing several suits of new clothes, £100 in gold, a medicine-chest, and a case of revolvers, all of which the prisoner acknowledged to belong to him. Upon his person also was found between £9 and £10 in cash, and in a safe at the counting-house £270. Some argument took place as to the mode in which the bills could have been indorsed, and certain technical objections were taken, but the magistrate thought that the circumstances were so suspicious that he must remand the prisoner. Application was made for bail, but the magistrate dryly observed that, as they were indebted almost entirely to accident for the prisoner's presence that day, some other "accident" might, if liberty on bail were allowed him, prevent his appearing again altogether.

THE ROAD CHILD MURDER.—A special meeting of the magistrates of the division was held yesterday week at the Police Court, Trowbridge, for the purpose of taking evidence in public respecting the finding of a night-dress stained with blood at Road-hill House, on the day the murder of Francis Saville Kent was discovered. After a long statement from Mr. W. Stancombe in reference to this night-dress and other circumstances, several witnesses were examined, but it is unnecessary to give their evidence, as the result was that the magistrates were of opinion that the dress had nothing to do with the murder. Mr. Stapleton, the surgeon, said he was present at the post-mortem examination. He saw no marks of suffocation, and was of opinion that death resulted instantly from the cutting of the child's throat.

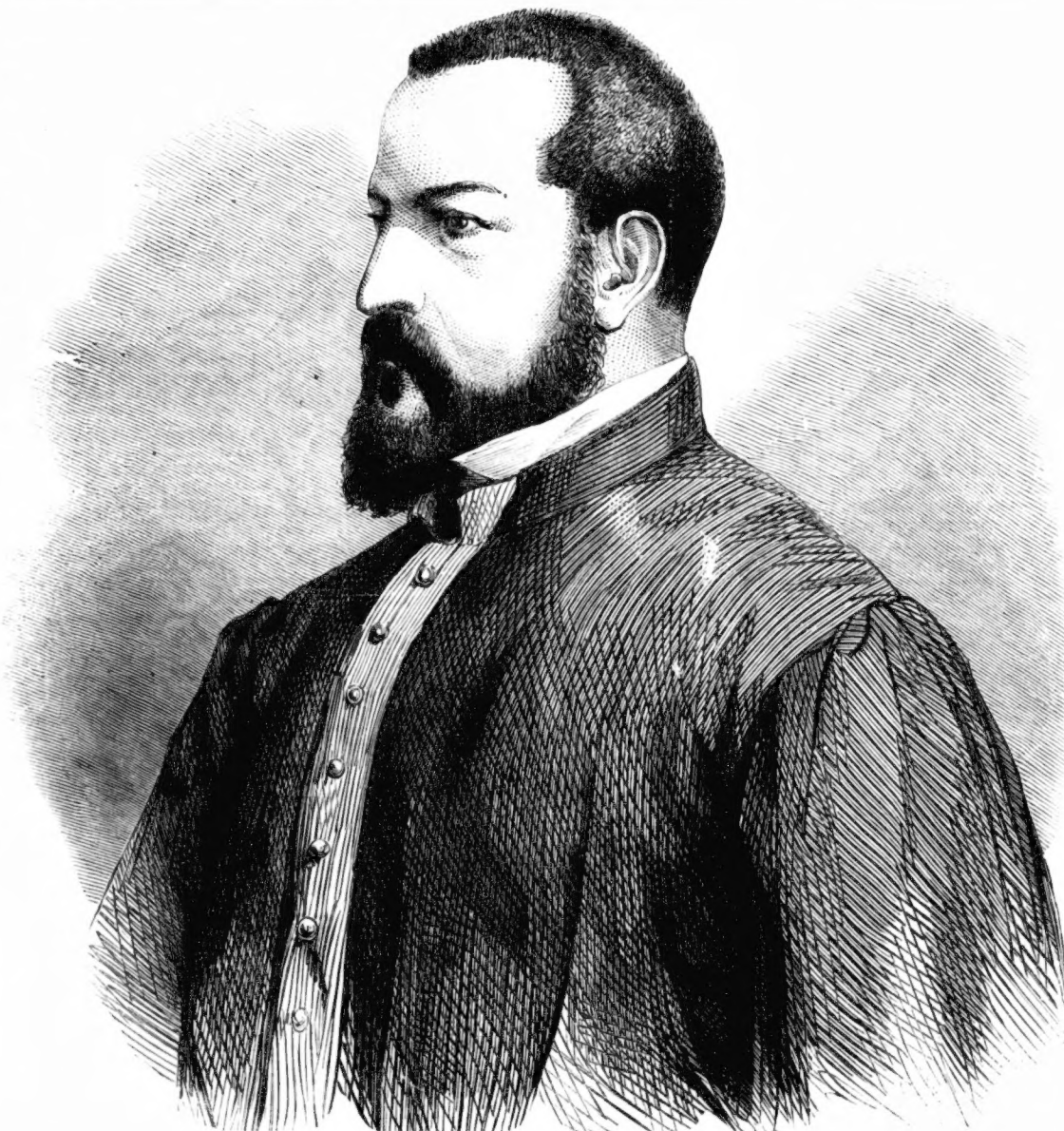
A FEMALE SAILOR.—Annie Stuart, a fine girl of eighteen, born in Glasgow, and who has for five years past followed the life of a sailor, dressing in male attire, is at present in the Liverpool workhouse, having applied to the parochial authorities in order to obtain means and clothing to undertake a situation more in accordance with her sex. She has five brothers, all sailors; and it was her desire to be with them that induced her at first to go to sea.

COLONEL MEDICI.

ALREADY the commanders who accompanied Garibaldi in the war for the liberation of Italy have become living historical characters. If life be measured rather by deeds than by time, the work which has been accomplished by the patriotic army may well represent an era; and those brave and faithful men who have wrought out the destiny of a people should at once occupy a position in the world's annals commensurate with the benefits they have helped to secure to mankind.

Amongst the first and most prominent of the names associated with the great General and his glorious expedition is that of Colonel Medici, one of his most sagacious and experienced chiefs. After a military career passed principally as a volunteer and a leader of volunteers, it was indeed fitting that Colonel Medici should take a foremost part in the grandest voluntary demonstration that the world has seen, the more so since he had already fought for a people's liberty under his beloved General.

Born in the Piedmontese province of Lomellina, he emigrated when a very young man, first going to Spain, and afterwards to America, where he joined Garibaldi, who was fighting in the cause of freedom. In 1848 we find him collecting a band of volunteers, and leading them against the Austrian legions. At the conclusion of the war in Upper Italy he again joined Garibaldi in the glorious resistance by which the soldiers of the fratricidal French Republic were kept out of Rome for two months; and, when the time arrived, he followed his chief to Varese and San Ferino, still a volunteer and a leader of volunteers. Through all the brilliant campaign which has restored Italy we hear of him constantly till the fight at Santa Maria and the shutting up of the Bourbon King in the fortress of Gaeta; and, now that the General has conquered, and given up his great trusts into the hands of Victor Emmanuel, Colonel Medici has been appointed a Lieutenant-General in the Sardinian army.

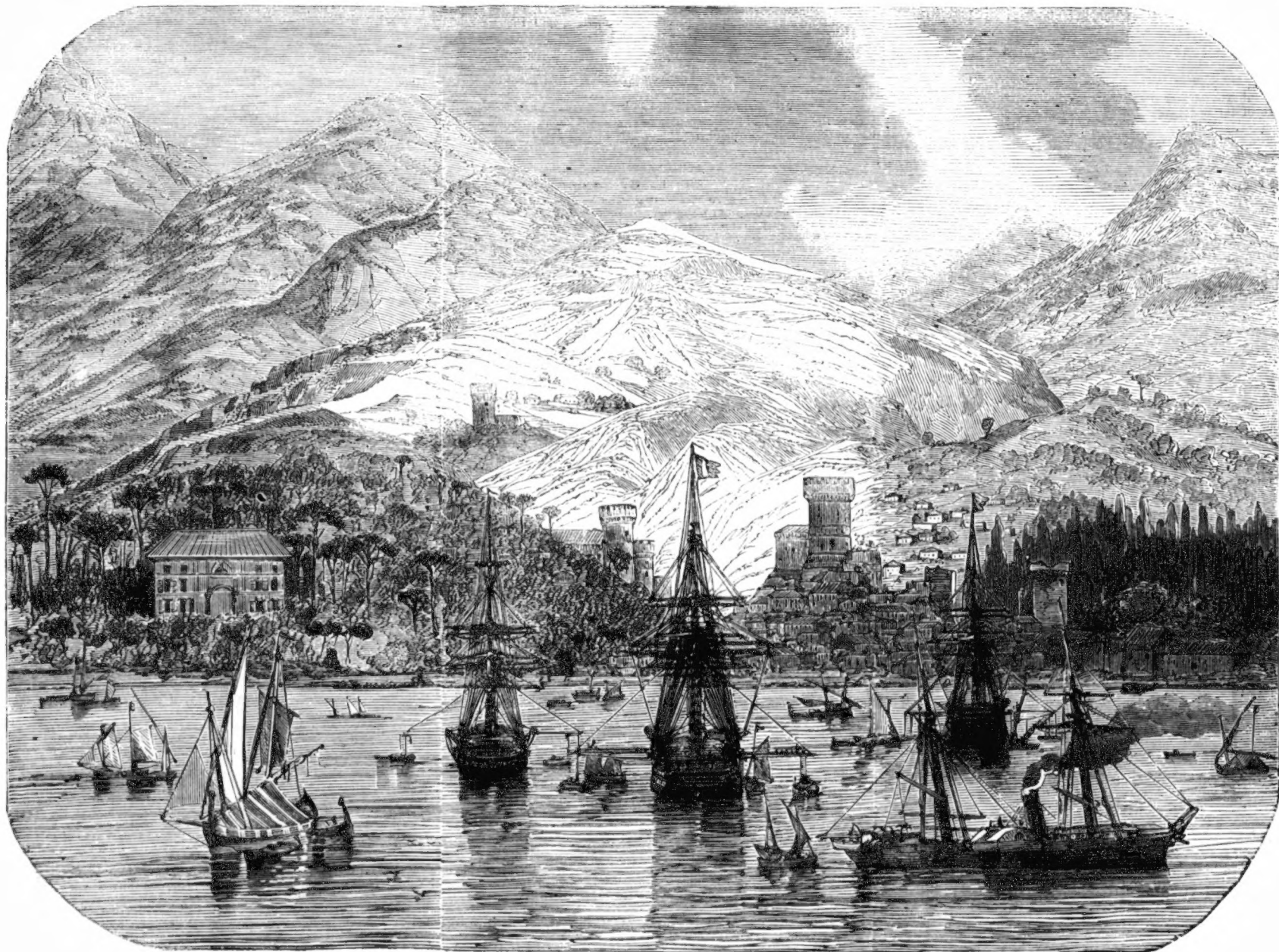


GENERAL MEDICI.

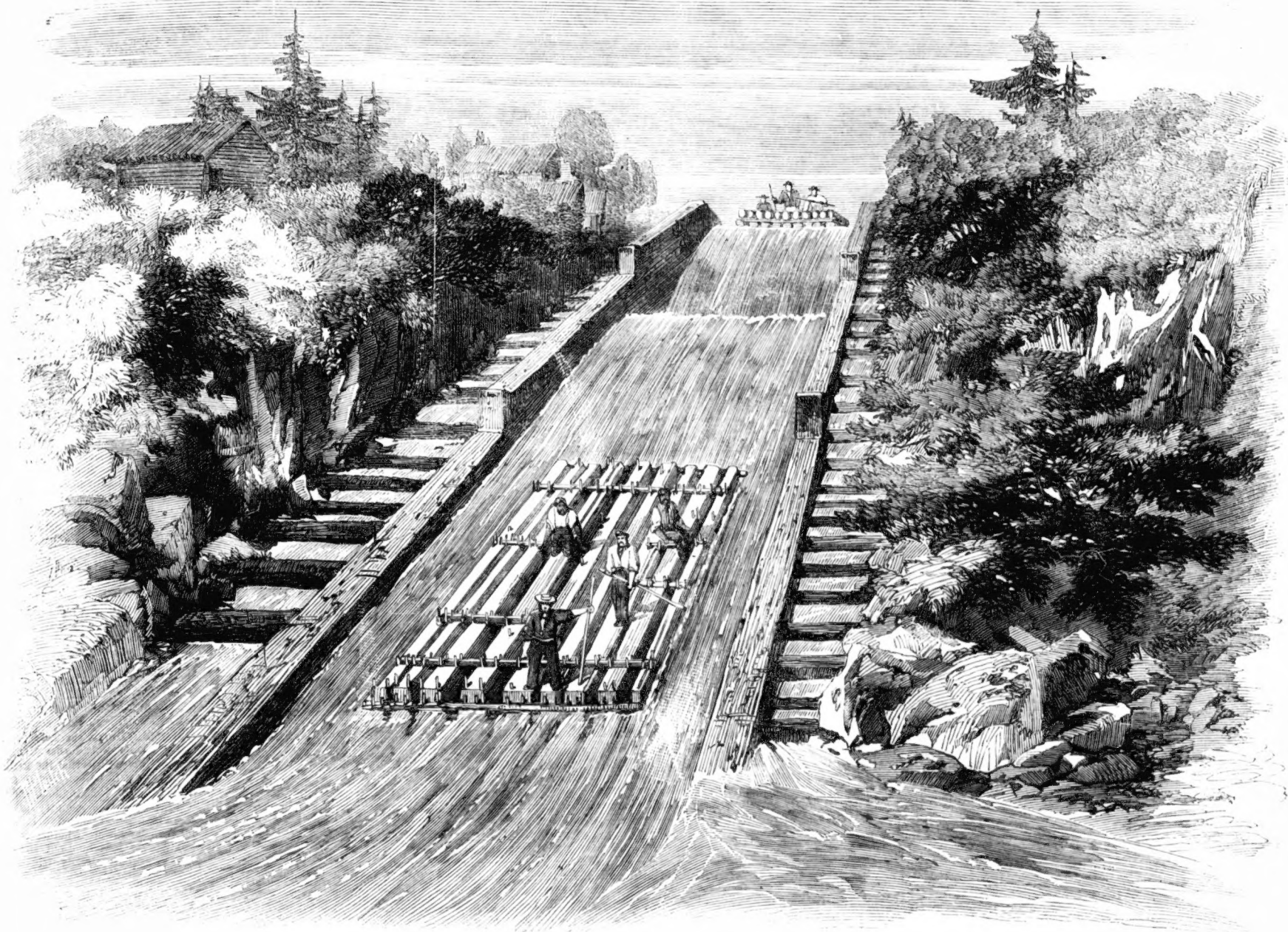
THE MOLA GAETA.

THE King of Naples has spared no trouble to render his last stronghold impregnable. Walled up in Gaeta, the troops have added such fortifications to the natural defences of the place as must make any attempt to take it by storm a desperate and sanguinary conflict between the Royalists and the Piedmontese troops. Day by day the outworks are strengthened. The front of attack on the land side, though only extending for a few miles, is defended by works cut in the solid rock, and supplied with three rows of masked batteries, presenting an aggregate of about three hundred pieces of ordnance. Other points are protected by the masses of rock which stretch out here and there into the sea. The regular fortifications of the city include the Tower of San Francesco, the Castle, and the fort of Monte Orlando; and it is said that the batteries, forts, and magazines are so masked as to be protected from the bombardment of the besiegers.

Already the Sardinian army have debarked quantities of material for the siege, and have pushed their columns as far as the Mola di Gaeta, which is only about two miles from the fortress. To effect this the Sardinians drove the Neapolitan troops before them, and compelled them to take up a position between Gaeta and their lines at Mola—a brilliant operation, which at once reduces the possessions of Francis II. to a narrow strip of seacoast about eight miles long, and to his citadel, where (if the report be true) an army reduced to 20,000 men, and without officers to command them, are holding out by the election of officers from the ranks, who fill up the vacancies occurring through the defection of the former subalterns. The effect of this will be that the area of the war will be confined to a small corner of the kingdom, and the rest of the country can meanwhile be organised. It is doubtful, however, whether the Royalists can long hold out, since it is said they already talk of



VIEW OF THE MOLE, GAETA.



A TIMBER-SLIDE ON THE ST. LAWRENCE.

TIMBER-SLIDE ON THE ST. LAWRENCE.

burning the suburbs on account of their sheltering the Piedmontese from the fire of the garrison, and the dearth of provisions is increasing.

Almost during the very time that the battle of the Mola was proceeding Victor Emmanuel entered Naples with Garibaldi by his side, and on the same day the Liberator, accompanied by his Ministers, presented to the King the result of the plebiscite which proclaimed him the chosen of the Neapolitan people. So the tyrant Bourbon sits in Gaeta listening to the booming of the guns and waiting till he is finally thrust from the country he has outraged. The chosen King accepts the great trust, and sets himself manfully to work out the result; and the great General replaces his sword in its scabbard for a time, and, accepting no reward, seeking no honour but the love of his countrymen, retires modestly to his island home at Caprera till he is once more wanted in the cause of national freedom.

SINCE the year 1535, when, with a commission from the French King, Jacques Cartier explored the River St. Lawrence, which he named, as usual, after the Saint's day on which he first entered the stream, Canada has witnessed as many administrative changes as most countries claiming an older settlement. Even after the voyage of the French navigator more than seventy years were allowed to elapse before Europeans permanently located themselves on the continent of North America, the first notice of a regular colony occurring in 1608, when the French under Champlain occupied the spot on which the city of Quebec now stands. In 1629 Quebec surrendered to the English under Kirk, but was immediately restored on the peace which was made in the same year. From 1663 to 1759 Canada continued a French possession, with Governors appointed by the King, but in that year the victory of General Wolfe led to the whole province being ceded in full sovereignty to Great

Britain. At that time the affairs of Canada were regulated by the ordinances of the Governor, till in 1774 a Legislative Council of twenty-three members was appointed. In 1791 the form of government was once more altered. Canada was divided into an upper and lower province, and to each of these was assigned a Governor, an Executive Council appointed by the King, a Legislative Council appointed for life, and a Representative Assembly elected for four years. There arose violent dissensions, however, between the Houses of Assembly and the Executive Government, and in 1837 futile attempts at insurrection were made in both provinces, so that the Earl of Durham, the Governor and High Commissioner for adjusting Canadian affairs, advised that the two provinces should be united, and that the responsibility of members of the Executive to the House of Assembly should be recognised by connecting the administration with the majority of the House.



KINGSTON, ON THE ST. LAWRENCE.

Quebec and Toronto are now alternately the seat of Government; and, while the political aspect of affairs has long been more tranquil, the commerce of the province has been developed with surprising rapidity. Indeed, situated, one at the confluence of the noble Rivers St. Lawrence and St. Charles, and the other on Lake Ontario, the capitals of the province possess every facility for extending their trade throughout America, since the streams upon whose shores they lie are themselves the silent highways by which the timber of the Canadian forests may be cheaply and swiftly transported to the various depôts; while vessels from all quarters lie beside the docks at Quebec, bringing their cargoes and carrying away the substantial produce of the country.

But it is to its timber that Canada principally looks as the staple of its commerce. In the depth of winter the "lumberers" start for the backwoods to fell the huge white and red pines which are drawn out of the snow by oxen and piled near the rivers, till the thaws of spring enable them to be floated down in immense rafts, which in the month of May cover the stream for miles. Loosely joined together in huge masses, the logs are set adrift, and poles and rough oars serve the lumberer to steer them. Down rapids, down currents of deep rivers, go these millions of cubic feet of timber from the various tributaries of the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence, and happy for the hardy river-men if no accident occur by which the mighty logs become separated, and come rolling together in a tumultuous chaos upon the rocks, down which they dash till they are thrown mere wrecks and splinters on the shore.

Our Engraving represents a "timber-slide," which is a contrivance for enabling a crib or small raft to avoid the great waterfalls. The slide is, in fact, an inclined plane, with several feet of water rushing over it, and forming a waterway down which the crib can pass without damage. It was on one of these cribs, consisting of a raft some twenty-five feet wide, that the Prince of Wales passed the timber-slide on his visit to the Chaudière. Our other Engraving represents the town of Kingston, one of the most important towns of Canada, since its position at the beginning of the Rideau Canal and the Cataraqui River gives it both a military and commercial significance. The town of Kingston is indeed the key of the central St. Lawrence, as Quebec is of its seaward extremity. Near Kingston is situated the chief naval station of the lakes, Navy Bay, a narrow and deep inlet of Lake Ontario.

POLITICIANS IN THE PROVINCES.

MR. BRIGHT ON PRIMIGENITURE.

THE Birmingham Freehold Land Society held a soirée on Tuesday night, and Mr. Bright attended. A resolution against the laws of primogeniture and entail, and against the impediments to the sale and transfer of land, was moved by Mr. White, M.P., and spoken to by Mr. Bright. He praised the working classes for the self-denial shown in supporting land societies; and he asserted that their freedom to get votes and purchase land had injured no one. But still the land was not free:—

He would tell them what those gentlemen who wrote leading articles upon the subject would say—they would say that there was no such law as that of primogeniture, and it was only where a man died without making a will that it came into operation; but the fact was the law did exist, and it gave to one son possession of the property, leaving the other children penniless. It sanctioned to a great extent among the people a practice which was infamous in itself. He would give a case in point. Before American independence, and when they were subject to the law of England, in the State of Virginia the law was the same as here, and primogeniture was in full force. Mr. Jefferson, one of the greatest statesmen the United States had produced, and who was their President, considered that it was one of the most beneficial acts of his life that he had abolished that law in the State. When the law was gone the practice fell into disuse amongst the people; and no man who had the slightest regard for his own character after death thought of disposing of his property in so unequal and unjust a manner. If in this country the law of primogeniture was abolished he felt satisfied that the abolition would be attended with the most beneficial results. Then came the law of entail. It did not come down to them from the days of intelligence, but from the time of the brutal ignorance under the Norman conquerors; and it was only now that they were emerging from the serfdom of that period; and he hoped the time would come when there would not remain upon the statute-book a despotic law or a remnant of the tyranny of those days. With respect to the law of entail, its main defect was that it enabled the rich man to perpetuate what he called "a family," and thereby perpetuate a gross injustice to some of his family; it enabled him to give his estate to his grandson, or to his grandson; and, although in his grave, the remains of a worthless mortal, reduced to the elements from which he came, his voice, nevertheless, was heard sixty years afterwards in the disposal of his property. Another point referred to in the resolution was the difficulty attending titles. If there was any lawyer present, who would undertake to explain to them how titles were created, and maintained, and transferred, he questioned whether there would be twenty people in the hall who would comprehend him. If a man wanted to be a landed estate, the first thing a purchaser would have to do was to go back for sixty years to ascertain whether there was any flaw in the title; and when they reflected upon the various changes which took place in sixty years in the ownership of property, through mortgages and other transfers, they could easily imagine how difficult it would be for a lawyer to wander through the writings of that period without finding something upon which to stay his proceedings; so that the buying of an estate might become the torment of a man's life.

The hon. member then proceeded to point out the serious effects which these laws had upon the social and moral condition of the agricultural population, their tendency being, he asserted, to create a great landed proprietary, to destroy the independent yeomanry of the kingdom, and reduce the labourers to a state of serfdom, degradation, and poverty:—

It was, he observed, a remarkable fact that England was the only civilised country in which the proprietors of the soil were becoming less numerous; while in France, the United States, or in other countries, the number of landed proprietors was increasing. But in the United Kingdom, where the people were possessed of indomitable perseverance, great industry, and a desire to possess land, yet, from the cause he had stated, the number of the owners of the land had for the last sixty years been steadily decreasing. That was certainly a most unnatural state of things. Power was concentrated in the territorial class, and the farmers and labourers were degraded and impoverished. They were in a most abject condition. They tilled the land, but they owned not the land they tilled. They cultivated under the great proprietors, and their interests were insecure. If, therefore, the Presbyterian farmers of Ireland, and the Dissenters of England, and the farmers of the Free Church of Scotland returned members, there were few among them who spoke their political sentiments in the House of Commons. But, leaving the farmer and going to the labourer, what a spectacle presented itself! He sympathised not so much with the man who could cultivate five hundred acres of land as with the agricultural labourer. There was not a man in the world whose condition appealed more to the common sense, to the zeal and sympathy of the towns, than he did.

The hon. gentleman then read an extract from a book called "The Recollections of a Country Parson," which gave a graphic description of the labours and sufferings of the ploughman.

He (Mr. Bright) did not believe that the state of degradation referred to had been decreed by the Almighty. He certainly did not find it in the gospel, from Genesis to Revelations; and it was a subject for serious inquiry why a boy or girl in Lancashire should be able to obtain for his or her labour as great, if not greater, remuneration than a powerful agricultural labourer. That was a state of things which required alteration, and they must alter it; they could change the system, and they ought to do so; they would give increased employment to the people, and breathe, as it were, the breath of life into those now politically dead. He felt that they were that evening in the way of their duty, that their connection with such societies was perfectly sound and justifiable, and, as corn was now free, and as Government had been strengthened in proportion to the freedom of the people, so he felt assured that, in proportion to the freedom of the land, and its release from the grievous wrongs imposed upon it, so would there be increased security and happiness for the people.

MR. FREDERICK PEAR.

Mr. Frederick Peel addressed his constituents at Bury on Thursday week. His speech mainly related to the past. It was an "account of my stewardship" speech; but some passages are worth extracting:—

Speaking of the financial measures of the past Session, he said they obliterated the last traces and vestiges of protection. They did away with the differential duties in favour of colonial timber-growers, colonial wine-growers, English clock makers, ribbon-makers, silk-manufacturers, and many other branches of trade. These duties were the remains of a once

powerful family, but they were not less at the present time injurious on that account. . . . He believed such large sums had never been voted in any Session as during the last for the military and naval defences of the country. Ninety thousand seamen and marines, or just double the number voted in 1853, were voted for the Navy. The great expense that the Navy had entailed upon us mainly resulted from our having to reconstruct our vessels of war, in order to enable us to sustain our maritime superiority. The same thing, to some extent, might be said of the Army, there having of late years been a complete revolution in the construction of fire-arms and ordnance. It was doubtful, however, after all, whether the volunteer movement had not been the means of winning from other nations that respect in which this country was now held. The failure of the Reform Bill was mainly attributable to the indifference of the country. It was a question surrounded with difficulties, but would not be allowed to sleep. Finality had long been given up. If they wished it, the laws of the country could no more be stationary than the progress of the people. If they could not have progress at the rate they could desire, at least they should have some progress. Progressive legislation was in favour at the present day, and he held it was wiser to remove abuses gradually than to remain until a demand would be made to wipe them all off in a day. Some alarm was felt at the numbers which the late Reform Bill would have admitted to the franchise; but the more hands there were holding up the State the stronger it would be. He did not think the working classes wanted more than a fair share of political power, or more than would enable them to act in harmony with the other classes for the common weal.

MR. NEWDEGATE.

The Rugby and Dunchurch Conservative Association dined on the same day at Rugby, and enjoyed a dessert of after-dinner speeches; Mr. Newdegate furnishing the pièce de résistance. The "County Members" were toasted, and declared vocally to be "jolly good fellows," Lord Ingestre leading the bacchanalian chorus. Mr. Newdegate, in reply, attacked Mr. Bright and the French Treaty. Coventry, he said, did not help the farmers to resist the repeal of the corn laws; but Coventry is now suffering from the effects of free trade, and it was the duty of the farmers not to desert them. Mr. Newdegate defended himself against the charge of wasting the time of the Commons by much speaking, and described why he spoke so often. At the close of his speech he said:—

There are many subjects which I should like to touch upon, such as the movement which is going forward on the Continent. England has been isolated too long in her protest against the temporal tyranny of Rome. Now, two-thirds of Italy have been freed by the exertions of that genuine hero Garibaldi. We have seen his friend Gavazzi bringing the Bible in his hand; it is announced that Canon Wordsworth is about to take to their aid; his great knowledge of abuses matters of doctrine and ecclesiastical history. In France we see the ancient spirit of independence in her Church is gathering among the secular clergy; we see her great Ruler following in the footsteps of Charlemagne in adopting steps to restrain and repel from France the temporal and spiritual tyranny of Rome.

Mr. Newdegate then referred to the alliance formed between Charlemagne and Offa King of Mercia, by means of which the former, through the instrumentality of Alcuin, repelled the superstitious of image worship; and, in conclusion, expressed a hope that the Emperor of the French might join England, not only in arms and in commerce, but in spreading throughout the world the seeds of that true religion which alone could fit man for freedom.

THE DUBLIN REPEAL MEETING.

THIS demonstration came off on Tuesday night in the Round Room of the Rotundo. The attendance was crowded, and the platform, on which a number of Roman Catholic priests were assembled, was occupied for the most part by the overflow of the meeting. A green banner, bearing the motto, "Aid yourselves, and God will aid you!" the staff terminating in the form of a spear or pikehead, was placed in a conspicuous position, and was waved vigorously whenever the speakers made "a point," to stimulate and increase the enthusiasm of the audience. The O'Donoghue, M.P., presided.

The secretary, Mr. T. D. Sullivan, stated that the signing of the national petition was progressing through the country, and would receive, no doubt, a great extension. Already it was signed by upwards of 300,000 bona fide male adults of various classes and of different creeds. There were a number of letters received from eminent Irishmen, ecclesiastical and lay.

(A Voice—"Viva la Franschay!")

Mr. Sullivan having read a letter from Dr. M'Hale, in his usual style, the secretary also read a letter from Mr. William Smith O'Brien. The Chairman, in addressing the meeting, said—

He could assure them that, notwithstanding the distress of late years, the Irishmen of 1860 had not degenerated. Although the question of repeal had not occupied a very prominent position of late years, yet it had never passed away from the public mind, and never could, unless the inhabitants of Ireland became apathetic slaves ("Never!"), or unless they were turned into or removed to make way for Englishmen. Might God preserve them from these calamities!

(A Voice—"No more English famine—(Cheers).")

Chairman—They all knew that the Union, as it was called, was carried by the exercise of every fraud—(Hisses). Before it was carried the sense of Ireland was not fairly taken, and since it had been carried it had never met with national approval—"Never!". In the year 1800 the Irish Parliament might be said to have consisted of the independent representatives of a small class of their fellow-countrymen—of the pensioners, placemen, and nominees of the English Government.

The O'Donoghue then detailed the history of the agitation for repeal, every allusion to the English Government being received with hisses, while the orator was vehemently cheered when he dwelt on the Mitchell affair of 1848. He then continued:—

He had thus glanced at the history of the last fifty years in order to show that the Union was carried without the consent of the Irish people, and had not since met with national approval. The longer it endured the more insupportable it became (Cheers). The representative of English power in this country, by bringing brute force to bear down a disarmed people—(Uproar, which lasted a considerable time. The chairman several times vainly endeavoured to proceed.)

Mr. T. O'Sullivan came forward and said, "Boys, will you not hear the O'Donoghue?" (Cheers.)

The Chairman then continued—They might be able to imprison and banish Irish patriots, to suppress their meetings, but there was one thing they never could suppress until they banished the Irish race, and that was the spirit of patriotism, and the longing for self-government which was the inevitable result of that patriotism. They now sought to carry their object under circumstances more favourable than their predecessors, for the statesmen and peers of England had recently declared that every nation had a right to govern itself. Were they satisfied to be governed by Englishmen?—(Cries of "No!") They now came together for the purpose of declaring, in the name of Ireland, that Irishmen could never rest satisfied or tranquil until they had secured for themselves the blessing of a native Parliament—a Parliament that would faithfully represent the people, that would be guided by their wishes, and would make the development of Ireland's prosperity its sole object—(Loud cheers). An Irishman had no business in the English House of Commons. He could not second them unless he agreed to forego the principles of his race, and adopt the manners, customs, and feelings of the English.

(A Voice—"Deasy!"—(Loud hisses).)

Mr. O'Neill Daunt moved the first resolution:—

He repudiated the idea that there was any disloyalty in the wish that her Gracious Majesty, our Sovereign Lady the Queen (Loud hisses), should govern Ireland through the instrumentality of Irishmen. Lord Palmerston (Hisses) embodied the English volunteers, but he would not allow Ireland to be armed.

(A Voice—"He remembers Dungannon (Cheers).")

Another Voice—"1782 (Renewed cheers)."

Another Voice—"He remembers '98 (Loud cheers)."

Mr. Daunt said he had no doubt that Irish volunteers would, in case of a foreign invasion, drive her Majesty's enemies from the Irish shores.

(A Voice—"Ah! No gammon (Cheers).")

Mr. Daunt—Lord Palmerston knew that the spirit of Dungannon existed in the present day, and he could not imagine that the spirit of nationality was trampled out. Ireland had been oppressed and defrauded of her national rights, but she never would give up her claim for that to which she was entitled—self-government. May their hatred of the Legislative Union be as lasting as their love of liberty!—(Loud cheers.) He concluded by proposing the resolution, which was as follows:—

"That we desire to obtain for our country her ancient and rightful native Legislature for the following reasons:—1st. Because we believe that the government of Ireland by an absentee Legislature, more than five-sixths of whose members are strangers to her people, and necessarily destitute alike of the local knowledge and the Irish sympathies essential to

just legislation, must produce, as it has produced, deep injury to the national interests of the kingdom, and must perpetuate, among other evils, that antagonism between creeds and classes which is incompatible with a state of national prosperity. 2. Because we believe that a native Government would promote harmony and goodwill among all creeds and classes of Irishmen, encourage Irish industry, and in a short time fill the land with genuine prosperity."

The Chairman here introduced the Rev. R. Mullen, parish priest, administrator from the diocese of Meath, who, he said, brought with him a petition signed by 4000 of the clergy and people of Meath, headed by the Bishop. The rev. gentleman said:—

He rejoiced at the awakening of national feeling which had taken place. He asked the meeting were they satisfied that Ireland should continue to be robbed?—(Cries of "No!") He would ask them, were they willing to be overtaken because England was afraid of invasion?—(Great cheering and waving of hats, which lasted several minutes.) They wanted to be united to England by the golden link of the Crown, but to be governed by Irishmen—(Hear, hear). Their agitation was not against the Protestant Church, which contained many truehearted and honest patriots. It was not against Freemasons or Ribbonism. It was only got up to protect the people of Ireland against Englishmen, who ruled them, and robbed them, and made tools of them, and left the unfortunate Irish to starve and famish—(Great cheering). The roads of the country were flooded with emigrants, and they should combine in a legal combination to prevent the present drain of the bone and sinew of the country. The English Legislature had thrown down the gauntlet. He used the argument against themselves, and pronounced before Europe and the Eternal God that they would never more allow themselves to be trodden down as slaves (Tremendous cheering).

Mr. John Francis Maguire, M.P., moved the following resolution:—

"That British Ministers and other influential persons in England having recognised and supported the principle that people who are discontented with their Governments may rightfully change or abolish those Governments, by violent means if they cannot do so peaceably, and in place of them set up rulers and Governments of their own choice, we are now assembled peaceably to inform our rulers that they and the existing form of government for Ireland are not of our choosing, and do not possess our confidence; and that we earnestly desire the restoration of that native Legislature of which our country was fraudulently deprived."

He said he had no love for agitation, but, being a nationalist, he felt bound in honour, as a public man, to take a part in the present movement. He believed that there was no real safety, progress, or prosperity for Ireland but in the administration of her affairs by men sprung from the soil—living in the atmosphere of Ireland, and understanding the wants, interests, and necessities of their country. What chance had they of the grand jury laws being placed on a better footing by an English Parliament? [Mr. Maguire was here interrupted by an individual in the gallery, who was instantly treated by his neighbours on the physical-force principle, while loud cries ascended from the body of the meeting to "Smash him!" "Throw him over!" and "Fling him out of the window!" The tumult continued for a considerable time.] Mr. Maguire continued to address the meeting at considerable length, and impressed the necessity of following the advice of O'Connell, and to endeavour to carry their object only by the force of public opinion, and not to adopt any of the wild and impracticable schemes which too ardent men would endeavour to suggest.

Mr. Lawlor, of the Queen's County, seconded the resolution.

Mr. Underwood, Presbyterian, moved the following resolution:—

"Resolved,—That the following form of petition to the Houses of Parliament be adopted by this meeting, be signed on their part by the Chairman and Secretaries, and be intrusted to The O'Donoghue, M.P., and John Francis Maguire, M.P., for presentation:—

"TO THE RIGHT HON. THE HOUSES OF LORDS AND COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

"The Petition of a Public Meeting held in the city of Dublin, on the 4th day of December, 1860,

"Sheweth,—That petitioners, together with large numbers of their fellow-countrymen, have signed a petition to her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria praying that, in accordance with those views on popular rights which have been frequently expressed by her Majesty's Government, her Majesty may be pleased to direct that the Irish people shall be allowed to choose their own rulers and form of government, such choice to be declared by ballot and universal suffrage; and that petitioners, encouraged thereto by the opinions lately put forth by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Lord John Russell, and other eminent persons, request your hon. House to give such assistance as may be constitutionally in your power towards causing such vote by ballot and universal suffrage to be speedily taken in Ireland. By compliance with this request the British Government would exhibit a consistent and sincere regard for popular rights, which would be duly appreciated by the people of Ireland. And your petitioners will ever pray."

They never, he said, could achieve their object except in one of three ways. The first was by force (Tremendous cheering and waving of hats on the platform, and by the entire meeting); the second, by reason; the third, by chance. They had not come to the conclusion to use the first. They would use the second, and they would not have the third. If the sword of France was used against England—(Great cheering, which lasted several minutes)—if a French fleet was thrown into the Irish Channel—(Renewed cheering)—would it be possible that the English Channel Fleet would cease to watch the shores of France? If such a casualty unfortunately took place it would be a disastrous thing, fatal to England (Loud and continued cheering). Upon that he raised his lever, for the only way to deal with an Englishman was to put yourself on an equality with him or to make him afraid.

(A Voice—"Go on; that's hammering them well!")

Mr. Underwood—They desired to gain their object by peace, law, and order, of course—(A laugh)—but they would obtain it. Their policy should be victory or death (Loud cheering and waving of hats). They should sign the petition with the conscientious conviction that they had manhood behind the names (Renewed cheering.)

The Rev. Mr. Lavelle seconded the resolution:—

He agreed with the last speaker as to the only three means to do so—first, force—(Loud cheering for several minutes)—then reason, then chance. He did not say a word about the first—(Cheers). He believed that mere reason would not exact justice from the English Parliament:—

"Justice they deny to the suppliant's cry:

We will wring it, as before, from their fears."

(Vehement cheering.)

Mr. Plunket was then called to the chair, and, on the motion of Mr. Alexander M. Sullivan, proprietor of the *Nation*, seconded by Mr. Denis Holland, a vote of thanks was passed to The O'Donoghue for his conduct in the chair.

The O'Donoghue, in returning thanks, said that he would always do his duty by the people, and wherever the Irish camp was pitched there he would be found.

The meeting then broke up, but not before a person on the platform, who had endeavoured to obtain a hearing, had received some rough handling.

WAR PREPARATIONS.—The *Courrier de Saint Etienne* states that M. Escoffier, director of the Imperial arms manufactory of that town, has been authorised by the Minister of War to make 30,000 muskets for the Piedmontese Government. They are to be on the Sardinian model, and the delivery is to commence towards the end of the present month. The same Government has purchased 70,000 muskets with flint locks, of the models of 1816 and 1832, from the artillery stores of Saint Etienne, Grenoble, Besançon, Lyons, and other places, and M. Escoffier has been authorised to transform them into rifles. He has already fifteen hundred workmen employed day and night in this operation. The *Courrier* further states that 1000 rifled carbines, made for the Russian Government at the Saint Etienne manufactory, by authorisation of the Emperor Napoleon, have just been delivered.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.—Dr. Livingstone has addressed a very interesting letter to the Bishop of Oxford. The distinguished traveller speaks very highly of the cotton-producing resources of what he designates the Highland lake region, which is reached by the River Shire. He says that the French are desirous of getting the start of us, and that we are hated by the Portuguese for our anti-slave-trade predilections. He has sent home the engineer to superintend the building of another steamer for the navigation of the lakes.

RESIGNATION OF SIR BALDWIN WALKER.—Sir Baldwin Walker has resigned the office he has so long held as Surveyor of the Navy, and has accepted the command at the Cape of Good Hope, rendered vacant by the removal of Rear-Admiral the Hon. Sir Henry Keppel, K.C.B., to the Brazil station, who in his turn superseded Sir Stephen Lushington, K.C.B., whose period of service has expired. Sir Baldwin will probably hoist his flag on board the *Euryalus*, 51, screw-steam-frigate, now fitting at Portsmouth with a poop for the reception of an officer of his rank.

THE CANTON PRIZE-MONEY.—All the difficulties which were experienced in the early distribution of the booty captured at Canton have now been overcome, and we understand that a Royal warrant will shortly be issued authorising the distribution of the shares to the several claimants who were engaged in the expedition. The portion of prize-money assigned to the Royal Navy will be about £30,000, and that to the Army £24,000. The Royal Marines, who did duty on shore, will share as soldiers.

Literature.

The Archer and the Steppe; or, the Empires of Scythia. A History of Russia and Tartary, &c. By F. R. GRAHAME. James Blackwood.

Here is a weak and fanciful title to a laborious work—a title well calculated to destroy all that it was intended to effect, by depriving the reader of all idea of the subject of the work in the endeavour to discard commonplace. It is high time that authors should return to the good old practice of simple, unaffected titles; and it is to be regretted that Mr. Grahame did not set the example by calling his work at first, instead of in the after-title, "A History of Russia and Tartary from the Earliest Ages till the Fall of the Mongol Power in Europe, in the Middle of the Sixteenth Century."

The enormous subject selected—one for which ambitious historians would require many volumes of handsome type—is here treated in less than five hundred pages. The effect is curious; for the material is not scanty, and the author is not afraid of his work, the result being a minuteness of detail which is at times absolutely distressing. It would be impossible to examine all Mr. Grahame's authorities. They are numerous, and include Gibbon, Krasinski, Herberstein, Prichard, Hue, Murray, Mouraviev; indeed, every name ever heard in connection with Russian history, excepting one—Mr. Thomas de Quincey, whose remarkable paper, "The Flight of the Tartars" (the return of the Asiatic Russians to the Chinese dominions in Catherine's reign), seems to be unknown to the author of the present volume. These writers of eminence are responsible, we presume, for Mr. Grahame's facts, and, excepting facts, we get little from the work. The writer appears delighted to depart from the dignity of history, and to repose upon a style which has many merits captivating for youth, but which must be called childish. Sentences for which there can be no good authority are put into the mouths of distinguished people; thus, in 1514, Prince Czeladin, commanding the Russian forces against Sigismund, is made to reply to his officers, "If we were to fall upon this part of the army the other battalions, to which more may perhaps be added, will still remain, and then great dangers would threaten us. Let us wait till the whole army has crossed, for our strength is such that, without doubt, we shall be able with but little exertion either to destroy these Poles or to surround them and drive them like cattle to Moscow; and then it will only remain for us to take possession of the whole of Lithuania." Perhaps Czeladin did hint something to that effect, but, in the absence of the shorthand-writer "of the period," we would rather not have had so remarkable a statement in the first person. Readers familiar with the glowing pages of Gibbon connected with Northern history will find, as we have hinted, the present book flat and perille; but great praise is nevertheless due to Mr. Grahame for the industry displayed in bringing from many sources every possible piece of information to bear upon a subject uninviting yet important. There is a want of interest—perhaps of reality—about Tartar history "from the earliest times" which no amount of eloquence could redeem. It is the later history which is attractive, and Mr. Grahame has broken off at a point from which Russian history is already written. Thus he has performed an office thankless to the many, but which will meet with due attention from the few who are studying one of the most curious countries of the world, and which, from recent events of progress and civilisation, has now the "eyes of Europe" upon it.

The Shadow in the House. By JOHN SAUNDERS, Author of "Love's Martyrdom," &c. Lockwood and Co.

Mr. Saunders' story, though of slight material, possesses more than average interest, because he has drawn his characters with some strength, and they are generally well opposed. But, in his one great point, he has made nothing short of an absolute failure. What can be expected from the title, "The Shadow in the House," save that a disagreeable, creeping sensation is to be diffused through the reader's blood from the very first? It is not to be of the Victoria Theatre school, that known at least to pit and gallery as the "raw-head-and-bloody-bones" system of excitement. No corpses in cupboards; not so much as a suit of bones in a subterranean passage. Nothing tangible; nothing even so material as a ghost, or a simple pair of burning eyes in a dark mantle. What the reader is led to expect is something akin to what Hoffman or Edgar Poe would have done well, and what Nathaniel Hawthorne has done to perfection. Take any chapter of "The House of the Seven Gables," or "The Blithedale Romance," and in it may be found more "shadow" than in all Mr. Saunders' novel taken together. In fact, all the "shadow" we can find in Bletchworth Hall is no more than there was in the "house" of which the African poet sings when "somebody" was in it with Dinah; for the mystery in each case is that two people are in love with a third, and this secret is exposed from the very beginning. And so from the very beginning comes disappointment. Piled-up excitement carries one through to the other side of a book nicely; but with this work all that was to happen was too soon apparent. Of course, when, in the last chapter, Mr. Saunders makes all the running, and comes up piping and pleasant with a first-class murder and an unexceptionable suicide, the reader if bound to "take the goods the gods provide him," and satisfy himself on the Jonathan Wild principle by "first taking what share he can get before he wrangles for the rest."

We have described the materials as slight; and slight they are. But then, in compensation, there are exactly three sets of slight materials, and three sets of people, who have no earthly connection with each other, at least as far as plot is concerned. We know no more faulty plan for a book than to make one big book out of what properly should be three little ones. Even a Surrey melodrama would not allow that; and at the Adelphi the Cheap Jack, or whatever character is assigned to Mr. Toole, is always instrumental to the safety or destruction of the young nobleman in the white waistcoat that always fits Mr. Billington to perfection. Three sets of character are the "shadow" set, in which a dark and stately young lady from the West Indies is disappointed of marrying her cousin Mr. Bletchworth Dell, who marries somebody else, and stands every chance of being as happy as the day and night are long. After many unsuccessful attempts at undermining their felicity, the scheming Grace poisons the wife, but reserves a sufficient dose for herself by the time the officers of justice arrive. Another set is simply "kitchen-stuff," but Mr. Saunders has made them lifelike to an extent that is closely akin to real humour. The third set involves a gentleman of education, who goes astray, enlists, is drummed out for theft, is proved innocent, and marries a lady's-maid. These characters are of course more or less blended; but, in reality, the fortunes of one are never influenced by another.

Mr. Saunders writes well; and the large class of readers who do not so much care for plot will read his pages of character, philosophy, and poetry with infinite pleasure. But he has a faulty habit of putting words into the mouths of things—a tricky affectation caught from Charles Dickens. For instance, a path up a mountain seems to "hint to the thoughtless wayfarer 'Come and see what a little world there is up here quite away from your own great world below!'" A steep road suggests to a party on horseback, "Now, then, down as hard as you can go! Nothing to stop you for half a dozen miles." These are but trifling absurdities, but they must be very good books that can bear the weight of such trifles.

Studies from Life. By the Author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," &c. &c. Hurst and Blackett.

There is a limit to human endurance. The author of this reprint has passed it. Two or three years ago she reprinted, under the title of "Nothing New"—a title the peculiar humour of which, under the circumstances, has never in our knowledge been equalled—a collection of tales already in print, one of them being at the time barely finished in the *National Magazine*, while the advertisements gave no hint of what the book really was. However, the tales were good, as this author's tales always are, and we repressed our virtuous indignation. Soon afterwards came "A Woman's Thoughts about Women," also a reprint, though we believe, in that case, the title of the

book was the same as that of the series of articles (in their magazine shape) of which it was composed. Now comes, with no intimation of the fact in the advertisements, a reprint of sketches that have appeared in *Chambers's Journal*. On the back of the titlepage we are told that these have been "revised" and "enlarged;" but enlarging was the last thing they wanted, they being already conspicuous examples of article-making; and there is not much to be said for that "revision" (of a very experienced writer, be it remembered) which leaves unaltered such phrases as "a sort of hopeless despair" (page 32), "moral conscientiousness" (page 238), "queer incongruity" (page 313), and "accurate, unexaggerated nature" (page 313).

As for the quality of the matter generally, it is very poor. The articles would pass in *Chambers's Journal*, but anywhere, everywhere, they must be called dull. Besides that, the mannerisms of the author become very unpleasant when you have to read page after page with the same peculiarities. Time would fail us to point out the inaccuracies of language which crowd this revised book. We open it literally and absolutely at random. Here are pages 72 and 73; and on page 72 we find the curiosity of children called an "extraordinary peculiarity" of the "infant mind;" while on page 73 we have that "unquenchable thirst . . . which is only allayed by" so-and-so. How can what is unquenchable be allayed at all?

It is a great pity the author of "John Halifax" ever wrote an essay in her life; it is a pity that she ever took to expressing opinions in her novels. She writes a capital story, and we have before said that she might, if she had the leisure which has been denied her, have produced a few really fine poems. Of her stories (of which "A Life for a Life" is the worst) we may say some day have an opportunity of saying words of warmer praise than have yet been spoken; for some of them have merits which have been but imperfectly recognised at present. But her essays are simply worthless: their commonplace is tiresome to the last degree, while their wary "respectability" of tone, painstaking avoidance of all "alarming" topics, and equally painstaking adoption of the clasp-trap enthusiasms of the hour, are something more offensive than tiresomeness. Who can love a voluminous writer that is never caught tripping? Upon which question follows another—Can the highest order of sincerity belong to a mind so self-watchful, so very capable of executing metaphysical and moral egg-dances without breaking a single shell? Heartily glad should we be to wake up some morning and find the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman" well abused by half-literate England for "subversive and dangerous sentiments" propounded in some new book of hers. Till something of that sort shall happen we think of her with "a sort of hopeless despair."

The Handbook of Games for Gentlemen. By Captain CRAWLEY. C. H. Clarke.

"Captain Crawley," as the writer of this handbook of games calls himself, has the faculty of making his pages sufficiently amusing to induce an "old hand" to turn them over, as much for their point as for their erudition. From Mr. Thackeray's renowned Rawdon everybody would expect a satisfactory account of all games for gentlemen; but we suspect the Captain is just a little modest (or ashamed?) when he forgets to give us a word about rackets. Of course, rackets is a respectable game; but it seems somewhat to belong to "the other side of the water." Certainly. Our own associations are connected with it at the Oval, Kennington; and, "in the years long still," at the "White Bear," a noted hostelry, again at Kennington. But the inference of the omission is that the Captain's associations with the game may belong to a certain institution dignified with the Queen's name, presided over by a governor, and blessed, unlike many hotels, with a system of undeviating attendance.

Whilst we have no hesitation in confidently recommending this book, it is but fair to add that books of games are never of great value at many games. In playing whist, truly, a little study makes the game easier for a young beginner; but in almost every other game the young beginner can only learn from experience. Take, for instance, billiards, in which Rawdon Crawley, of course, would give most men forty-nine carelessly, and playfully make the game off the balls. He gives many plans in his book—round balls and dotted lines; but he must know perfectly well that such instructions are almost useless, unless the player can make certain of the strength that he employs. Taking rules at cards: every company of players is accustomed to deviate from rules, or rather to make them, at their own will. At vingt-et-un, for instance, it is common for the natural to take quadruple stakes, or triple stakes, or, again, only double, like the acquired natural. At loo the Captain's rules differ in many points from any professed set of rules that we know. The value of the book, then, consists in the precise knowledge given of incontrovertible rules, of suggestions and advice, of how to reckon, as at cribbage, &c. On these points Captain Crawley appears to be a sound authority. Portions of the book have already received the stamp of authority in the shape of previous editions. "The Handbook of Billiards" is well known; and the "Backgammon," published many years since by the late Mr. Bogue, is here rewritten, and is still adorned with the elegant and humorous drawings of Mr. Kenny Meadows. Subject to the drawbacks we have mentioned, this little work will be of great use to all who wish to while away a pleasant evening with a few mistakes as possible. And if it should be objected that all games are gambling, and should be discouraged, be it remembered that the Captain can play at all games for playing's sake; and that, when money is indispensable, he seldom mentions currency above copper! He was not so when George Osborne knew him.

Stanford's New London Guide. With two Maps. London: Edward Stanford.

Love and London are two things almost invariably able to call up eloquence to the brain of the dullest man. Indeed, it is scarcely possible to be below the mark on either subject; for the subjects themselves will always lend the charm, and dull must be he who will not borrow on such easy terms. The many years' labour of Mr. Peter Cunningham resulted in a "Handbook" replete with perfect—with exhausted—knowledge of both old London and modern London. The plump volume issued by Mr. H. G. Bohn on a somewhat different plan, dropping the antiquarian portion and giving an account of all that goes on in London, is valuable and interesting in a different sense. But this venture put forth by Mr. Stanford appears to be the very thing difficult to obtain—a Guide to London as dry as a bluebook obtained by Mr. Williams, or our extinct friend the Tower mot. It may not be exactly like the exploded works of Mr. Cruchley or Mr. Mobb, that used to drive our country cousins to despair and our own residence for further information. But as a guide-book it is scarcely superior; although, indeed, Mr. Stanford kindly eases the way by chalking out six walks during which all London may be seen—a pedestrian feat which might agonise Captain Barclay, even supposing he should "sleep no more." If this could be done, the visitor might indeed see all London within the week; and the seventh day might be devoted to Windsor Castle, Hampton Court, Greenwich Hospital, and others of the suburban attractions described in these pages. But it is to be feared that the exterior only of our buildings would be seen. However, there are here upwards of two hundred closely-printed pages, describing what, under the circumstances, cannot be seen; and this will probably satisfy many country people, whose active imaginations are so frequently reduced to sheer imbecility by the sad reality of London's splendours. It is probable, too, that if the provincial should actually take the trouble to see all that is to be seen he would here and there admit that, if he had rated London too high, Mr. Stanford has rated it too low. He wishes to see the "Galleries of Art;" and, turning to that heading, finds only the Dulwich Gallery, the National Gallery, and the National Portrait Gallery. He might find a line to the effect that English pictures are at South Kensington; but he will probably overlook the information required, because it is not put in its proper place. Many monuments in St. Paul's Cathedral are not noticed; they have been erected, evidently, since the compiler took the trouble to look over the building. The information respecting theatres is grossly inaccurate. The names of "distinguished scholars" at our public schools might with ease have

been made perfect. The list of hospitals is not complete, and—but we cannot go through a list of trifling omissions apparent to any Londoner of two years' standing; trifles, truly, but perplexing to a country visitor.

As such books as "Stanford's London Guide" are almost certain to become permanent, we may at least conclude that a second edition will contain none of those faults which, as a mere matter of duty, we have pointed out.

Clever Boys of our Time, and how they became Famous Men. By the Author of "Famous Boys," &c. Darton and Co.

The point that will strike the reader of this biographical volume is, that in almost every instance chosen the subject was not clever as a boy. Moreover, it has long since been acknowledged that celebrated men have seldom commenced by being clever; unless, indeed, we are to take for cleverness at the outset the final result of being prosperous or celebrated from an unpropitious beginning. On that principle distinguished names crowd on the mind—Lackington, Johnson, Goldsmith, the late Mr. Wilson, Mr. W. S. Lindsay, the founder of the Lunsdowne family, &c. On the other side the names are few. Cowley and Pope are the principal in one age; then Watt, and Humphrey Davy, and Macaulay in the present age. The present attempt to fix greatness upon youth is a failure, for very few of the "clever boys" have been clever until they arrived at manhood. Macaulay had every advantage; so had Sir John Franklin and Disraeli. The majority of the other instances were born poor, and latent talent was called into play by the success of juvenile industry. But there is no particular cleverness in a boy keeping himself from starvation until such qualities as he may possess become ripened. This, however, is but quarrelling with an *ad captandum* title. The book is good, and well calculated to excite the emulative spirit of youth in the useful and honourable paths of life. Especially to be commended are such examples as the Messrs. Chambers, of Edinburgh, and Mr. Bianconi, the coach proprietor and Mayor of Dublin. The big ends from small beginnings of such men as Arago, Brewster, Dickens, and Cobden, will be more familiar to the public; but there are examples of genius existing where it was never suspected. These biographies will serve to cheer the minds of the young of every class of society, by showing that life need not "all labour be," and that good preparation in boyhood is the best foundation for success in after life, whether that success is to come from solid industry, or the golden apple to drop, a windfall, at the feet, through the divine spark of genius which may brighten into a name. The stories are well written, and generally correct in detail. The pictures are works of imagination; that of Mr. Dickens, dropping his first magazine article into the editor's letter-box, is a triumph of inventive daring.

THE LAKE DUKE OF NORFOLK.—In a pastoral letter Cardinal Wiseman pays an earnest tribute of veneration to the memory of the late Duke of Norfolk. He speaks of his "true humility":—"For, while placed in the very highest pinnacle of social and national position—while surrounded by all the advantages which the world can give—endowed with manly and generous qualities, and even physically offering a choice type of English manhood—there was in this illustrious man a gentleness that sprung from true humility, and almost concealed, by its external grace, the firm root from which it grew. Whether in the form of consideration for the lowest dependent, or of attentiveness to guest and friend, or of deference to counsellors, or of unostentatiousness in person and action, or of simplicity in the doing of great things, or of bashful, shrinking sensibility as to public appearance, we have noted, with admiration, a far deeper and holier ground-work than these outward characteristics manifested to the world. He sacrificed the career of his public life, he refused the distinction of Royal favour most coveted by those of his rank, because he feared the slightest compromise of his highest principles. . . . There is not a form of want, or a peculiar application of alms, which has not received his relief or co-operation. The building of churches; the erection of schools; the institution of orphanage, almshouse, reformatory, training-school, or hospital; the foundation of convents, whether for contemplation or for active duties; the education of the clergy at home and abroad; any Catholic interest or cause, whether of the hierarchy or of the oppressed inmates of workhouses or prisons; whatever, in fine, that required assistance for carrying out a good and holy work found ever in him a ready, an ungrudging, and a noble-hearted benefactor."

PRIVATE BILLS.—An important paper was read before the Law Amendment Society on Monday night on the question of the private bill system. The gentleman who read the paper suggested that commissioners should be appointed to go down to the localities whose interests were affected by private bills and report upon the merits of the proposed legislation. Lord Stanley expressed a strong opinion that the House of Commons would not surrender any portion of its authority or delegate its exercise to others. After an interesting discussion the further consideration of the subject was postponed.

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE IN SPAIN.—The question of religious liberty in Spain was brought before Lord John Russell at the Foreign Office on Wednesday. An influential deputation, headed by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe and Sir Culling Eardley, waited upon his Lordship for the purpose of soliciting his good offices on behalf of certain persecuted Protestants in Spain. It appeared from the memorials which were presented by the deputation that several Protestants have been imprisoned and compelled to herd with criminals solely on the ground of their religious opinions. Lord John, in reply, pointed out the difficulty of moving in the matter—the difficulty which might possibly arise from the encouragement that popular fanaticism might lend to a policy of intolerance; but he said that, if on consideration he believed any good could be done, his efforts should not be wanting to promote that object. More than this the deputation could not expect.

"LA GLOIRE."—The *Toulonnais* of the 1st says:—"The iron-cased frigate *La Gloire*, which has been out with the *Algérais* to try her speed against that vessel, returned to our roadstead yesterday. During all the trials, with two, four, six, and eight boilers, the *Gloire* had much the advantage of the *Algérais*, which is, however, one of our fastest vessels. It was also ascertained that the frigate possesses the necessary qualities for facing all weathers at sea."

THE GALLANT CHADWICK.—The *Manchester Examiner* narrates that just before the Empress Eugénie stepped out of her carriage at Salford "Mr. David Chadwick, who was present, perceived that there was no carpet or cloth laid to protect her Majesty's feet from the wet earth. With great presence of mind he at once took off his overcoat, and spread it upon the ground. Her Majesty stepped upon it, and Mr. Chadwick was rewarded, as he deserved to be, with smiles of approval."

THE FRENCH REFORMS.—The *Revue des Deux Mondes* comments on the "supplement" to the Constitution, and particularly on the system of Ministerial liability. It admits that in these reforms may be detected "the essential rudiments of a Parliamentary system." "The constitutional machine," it continues, "will be formed by practice. The nature and the force of things will progressively restore to the Assemblies the portion of the initiative which is, perhaps, too sparingly allotted to them, and will end, if necessary, in bringing the whole Cabinet into Parliament. We do not pretend to be the precocious Delommes of the supplement which has just been given to our Constitution. We cannot, however, resist the temptation of finding out what will be, for instance, the consequences of this system of speaking Ministers and of acting Ministers. This is, in a practical point of view, the most obvious anomaly of the decree. One cannot understand, at first sight, how this double Cabinet can work—this double Cabinet, formed behind the curtain, of Ministers who are to conduct public affairs without defending or explaining them in the Legislative Assemblies; while on the stage, and before the public, are Ministers who are to do nothing, but who show themselves and explain and defend the acts of their colleagues. It would seem that there was a desire to divide what was indivisible, and to ask from human nature and from the nature of things more than they can give. For our part, we should not be surprised that such a system, imagined in order to avoid what is called in Parliamentary Government Ministerial responsibility, and to ensure the proper dispatch of business, impeded, on the contrary, the course of public business, led necessarily to Ministerial responsibility, and to the formation of real Parliamentary Cabinets under the presidency of a Prime Minister. Our conclusion will perhaps appear paradoxical, but we think that it is well grounded."

LEAKY SHIPS.—An apparatus is invented for leaky ships, consisting of a two-bladed screw, of a semi-disc form, attached to a jointed rod, which gives motion to a small-toothed bevel-wheel; that, in its turn, works another wheel at the end of a shaft extending longitudinally along the bulwark, and connected with the lower limb of a bill-crank, working about six feet from the deck of a vessel. The upper limb is connected by a rod with an upright arm springing from the centre of a horizontal lever-beam, to the end of which the pump-rods are jointed. A vessel going from three to four knots an hour will work the pump and cause a discharge of water equal to that accomplished by a large body of men. The action can be increased, and at six or seven knots' speed the discharge nearly fills the nozzles. The inventor is Mr. Robert Formy, of Liverpool.

THE PEIHO FORTS.

We have already given some account of the attack on the forts of the Peiho, and we are this week able to present our readers with an Engraving of the interior of the principal battery in the great northern fort on the right bank of the river, taken from a sketch by a French officer accompanying the expedition. This fort was discovered to hold such a position that its capture would at once give the allies the command of the remaining defences, and, although to take it by storm it was necessary to display an unwavering courage, it was determined to make the attempt. Across a bare, flat tract of country, but somewhat protected by the fire from the Armstrong guns, which diverted the attention of the enemy, our Marines and soldiers, in concert with a proportion of the French troops, crossed the ditch on pontoons, destroyed the sharp stakes driven in the banks on either side, and scaled the walls, entering the garrison in the face of a desperate resistance.

There is little doubt that the invincible spirit with which this victory was gained will be the key of the future conditions observed by the Chinese. When once they saw the fort in the hands of the allies, after so short but deadly a struggle, they gave up all hope of holding the rest of the positions, and made terms at once to retire from them. The place was, indeed, armed in such a manner that they may well have been surprised at the rapidity with which it changed hands. The guns are many of them of large calibre, some being about ten feet long, and established upon regularly-constructed platforms. These enormous pieces had to be moved with a sort of capstan fastened to the carriage, and near each one of them was a regular supply of ball and ammunition carefully arranged.

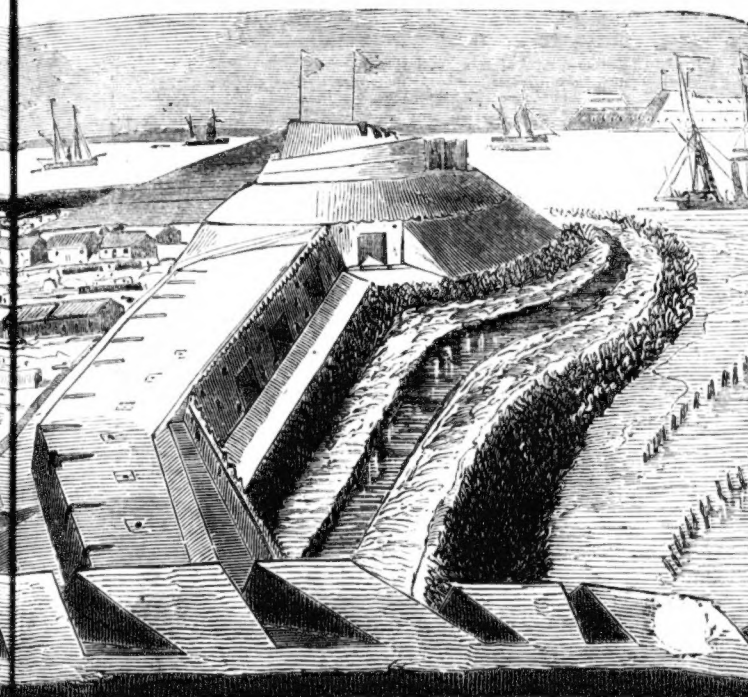
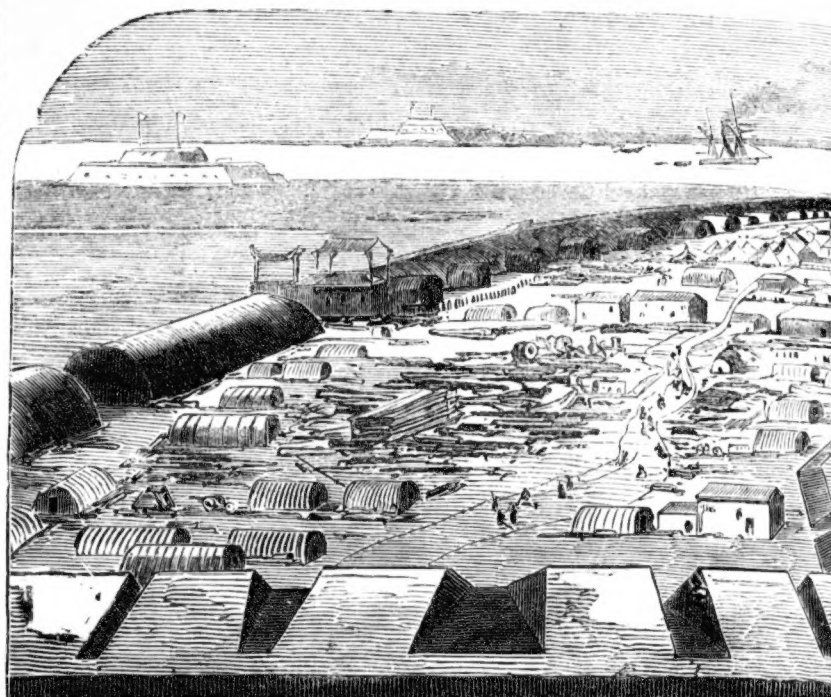
A CABINET COUNCIL IN FRANCE.

An account of the Cabinet Council in which the recent reforms were resolved on by the Emperor is given by the Paris correspondent of the *Times*—

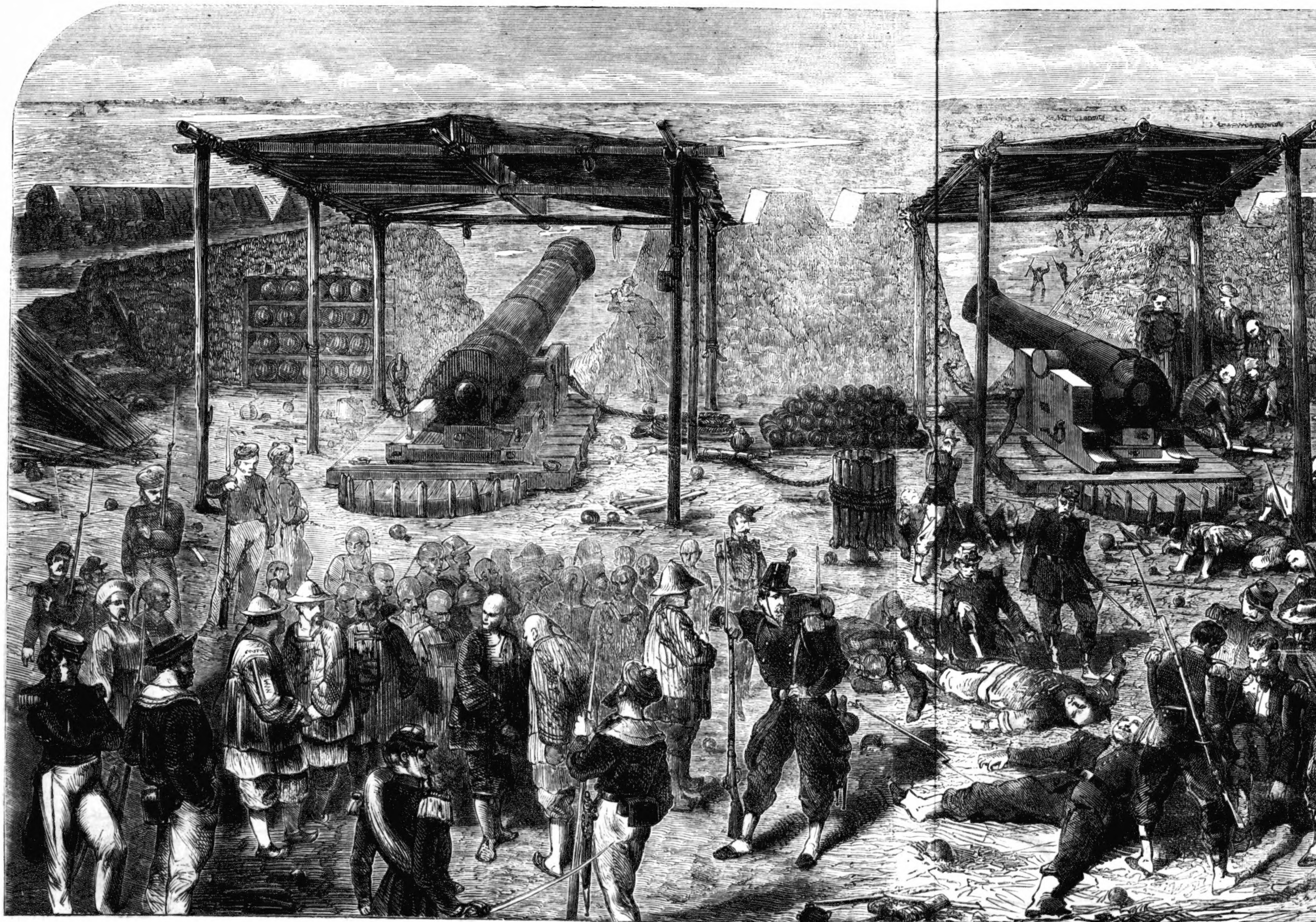
"When the Ministers met on the 23rd, under the presi-

dency of the Emperor, nothing in the Imperial countenance gave any indication of his purpose. He soon disclosed his project. He informed the Ministers that he had arrived at the conviction that Governments which did not in due time make the reasonable concessions and reforms desired by the country were destined to fall. He had no desire that resistance should be carried to extremity. He found that such men as M. Berryer, for instance, could be a member of a Chamber of Deputies under the Orleans monarchy, and that Legitimists and Orleanists could sit in the Republican Assemblies of 1848-9, '50, and '51; and he saw no reason why those who reflected honour on France by their talents and integrity should not come forward and take part in the business of the nation. He declared that he was tired of a 'Chamber Jubinal, &c.' (they are literally his words, as I am assured), and he wanted a far different sort of Chamber. After some further remarks the Emperor read his decree. Had a bomb fallen in the centre of the room where the Ministers were sitting, no greater astonishment or dismay could be felt! Yes, it was a fact; the Emperor positively announced that liberty was to be given to the Legislative Corps to freely discuss the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and pronounce its judgment on the domestic and foreign policy of the Government! They stood, or sat, utterly astonished; astonished, not because they were not consulted, for that they were accustomed to, but for many reasons known to themselves. There was no help; submit they must, and submit they did.

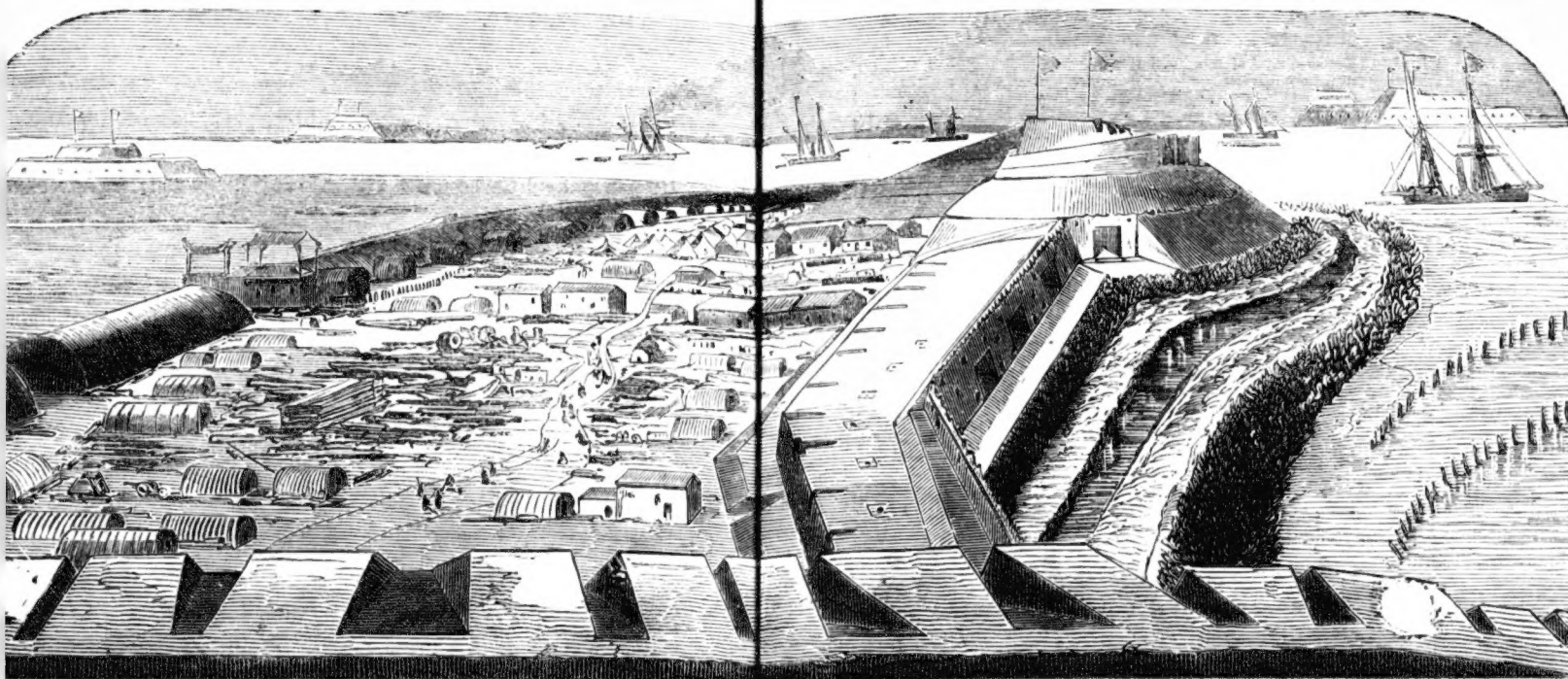
"The Emperor was addressed by de Morny. M. de Morny earnestly recommended his Majesty to take care not to go too far or be too hasty in his concessions, &c. M. de Morny had, it appears, thought of certain concessions of his own. I don't mean railroad concessions, or matters of that kind, but political concessions. These amounted to allowing the *Moniteur* to publish *in extenso* the debates in the Legislative Corps; but I believe he was not disposed to go any further. M. Baroche, the 'ex-anticipator of the justice of the people,' grew pale when he heard the decree; and M. Billault, the ex-Liberal, the ex-Republican, the ex-defender of the freedom of debate



INTERIOR OF THE FIRST PEIHO FORT ON THE RIGHT BANK OF THE RIVER.



INTERIOR OF THE LARGE BATTERY IN THE PEIHO FORTS AFTER THE ASSAULT.



INTERIOR OF THE FIRST PEIHO FORT ON THE RIGHT BANK OF THE RIVER.

and the liberty of the press, was, it is said, almost dumb with astonishment. M. Rouher, Minister of Public Works, looked as if he thought that his Imperial master was making sad work of the 'situation,' and mentally prayed, like the Vicar of Wakefield, that it might be as well a year hence. M. de Morny again came to the rescue. He asked the Emperor what he meant to do in case the present Chamber disapproved, in their reply to the Speech from the Throne, his Majesty's policy? The Emperor said that in such a case he should dissolve and appeal to the country. 'And what,' said De Morny, 'will you do, Sir, if the next Chamber also disapproved your Majesty's policy?' 'In that case,' said the Emperor, unhesitatingly, 'I should yield, and adopt the policy recommended by the representatives of the country.' I believe this relation to be almost literally correct. M. Jubinal is deputy for the Basses Pyrenées. He is an uncommonly zealous supporter of Government. He does not pass for a great orator, a great statesman, or a Solomon; and the allusion to his name has caused some merriment.

GOSSIP FROM GAETA.

The *Espero* of the 2nd inst. states that the Piedmontese were waiting for the completion of their batteries in order to open fire with effect on Gaeta, and that General Cialdini had taken advantage of a few hours' truce to beg the King to place a white flag on the Palace occupied by the Queen, that it might be spared. The *Opinione* says:—

"The news received to-day by the telegraph would lead us to consider probably the approaching departure of Francis II. from Gaeta. General Cutrofano, not having been able to reach Warsaw in time for the interview, pushed on for St. Petersburg, in order to learn what the Emperor Alexander's intentions were respecting his Sovereign. Alexander II., it is said, exhibited sympathy with Francis II., but declared that he could do nothing for him. Then, from St. Petersburg, the General thought fit to proceed to Paris, there to recommend to his Majesty Napoleon III. the cause of Francis II., but the Emperor could give no other advice than

that of desisting from a resistance that could henceforth have no result beyond the ruin of Gaeta. General Cutrofano left Paris yesterday, the bearer of this counsel to Francis II.—a counsel that will not be new for the latter, for he has already received it several times as the only one to be possibly suggested by the present situation."

A correspondent of *La Presse* writes as follows from the camp before Gaeta, under date Nov. 27:—

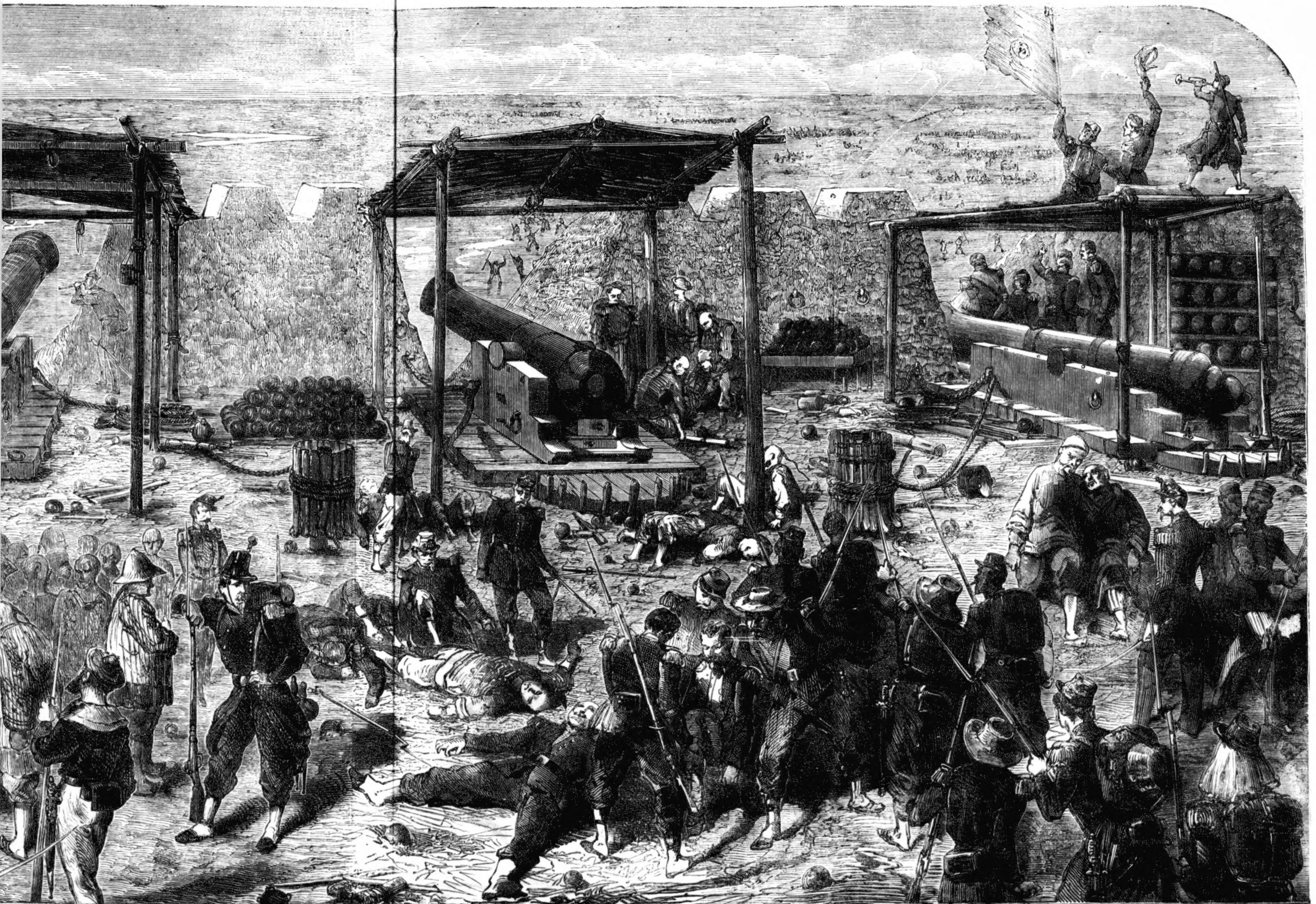
"A report was suddenly spread to-day that Francis II., whose health is not satisfactory, had left Gaeta on board a Spanish steamer. Our camp was in a state of emotion; but a few hours afterwards it was ascertained that the King was still in his palace, and that he was suffering from his chest, which has been affected for some time.

"A steamer did, in fact, leave Gaeta; but, instead of the fallen King, it took away the members of the diplomatic corps, who, it seems, are tired of being shut up in a fortress and object to receive the shot and shell which in a few days we shall throw into the place. The Papal Nuncio had already left; Count Perponcher, the Prussian Minister, and Count Seceny, the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, followed him in the morning. M. Bermudez, in his character of a Spanish cavalier, will not leave till the siege is over; he will not allow the Queen to touch the Spanish territory except under his escort.

"General Cialdini left us suddenly yesterday morning, having been sent for by the King of Sardinia from Naples. He is expected back to-morrow with the King's instructions. Cialdini might very well be spared for a short time, for as yet all the work must be done by the engineers. The heavy rain of the last few days has suddenly stopped the works of the pioneers, and until we have sunshine again they cannot be resumed.

"Cavalli's siege artillery has arrived. It has been placed in position at the entrance of the Valley della Guercia. These Cavalli guns are said to carry 500 metres with admirable precision. Great results are expected from these formidable guns.

"The population of Gaeta is emigrating en masse which



INTERIOR OF THE LARGE BATTERY IN THE PEIHO FORTS AFTER THE ASSAULT.

proves that the King is determined to resist. The villages of the little island of Ischia do not suffice to contain the unfortunate fugitives. More than 1000 have sought a refuge in the island of Casamiccola. The authorities have lodged them in hospital Monte della Misericordia, as they were exposed to all the rigours of the inclement season. As they are chiefly of the poorest class, means have to be found to feed them. The Municipality of the island being almost without resources, M. Farini has sent a commissary to give assistance to these unfortunate people, the unhappy victims of a war to which they are no parties.

"This morning arrived the Polish General Mierolowski, who has come to inspect the siege works. The military leader of the Sicilian revolution of 1848 is said to bring with him a plan for forming a Polish Legion. What will Austria say to all this? We have already a strong Hungarian Legion, we have Wallachian Volunteers, and, if we add the Poles, we shall have a small army, the elements of which will give the Emperor Francis Joseph a good deal to think about. The sudden departure, moreover, of General Turr is a significant proof that the Hungarians are preparing for a rising."

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1860.

UNHAPPY IRELAND.

THE term "unhappy" which Irishmen find such satisfaction in applying to their native land will always be applicable as long as she is infested with O'Donoghues to lead her people from contented industry into political absurdity. Upon the whole, it is better, perhaps, to be a slave than a fool; but, since "the Saxon" neither dares nor desires to enslave Ireland, it is a pity "entirely" that, every other week or so, her patriotic sons hand her up for his derision. Not long ago this same O'Donoghue ridiculously distinguished himself by presenting a subscription-sword to M. Mahon, "Roi d'Irlande," and was snubbed at Châlons and laughed at everywhere else for his pains. Soon afterwards a Mr. Sullivan publicly laid at the feet of a band of performing Zouaves a flag affixed to a croppy pike (the emblems of France, America, and Ireland being blazoned together on the bunting), with an intimation that "We trust the day may come when, as of old, Irishmen and Frenchmen, and our friends and brothers on the American shore, may fight shoulder to shoulder for glory and renown"! Anywhere else in Europe but that very green island whose liberties are trodden under foot by the bloody heel of the Saxon this proceeding would have lodged Mr. Sullivan and his coadjutors in a gaol: there the Government looked over it with contempt. As for the matter of the Papal Brigade, we may regard that as foolish too; and, indeed, there is something specially absurd in a nation with a constant shriek for liberty in her mouth sending her children to fight for the worst Government extant. Still we, for our own part, never saw reason to swell the lively chorus of derision which this movement provoked from many of our contemporaries. It is impossible not to be angry with those who—knowing the facts of the position, actuated by motives which all honest minds condemn, or confused by that wilful blindness which all enlightened minds must despise—misled others who were simply ignorant and loyal; but, as long as human nature remains what it is, loyalty, even to the worst of faiths or the most worthless of papas, must be respectable. Low-comedy jokes are not applicable to it in any shape; and, much as we deplore the mission of the Pope's Irish Volunteers, in its origin, its motives, and its results (to them), we find neither heart nor reason in "chaffing" the volunteers themselves.

This exhibition of Irish character and Irish logic we pass over, then; only we should have been glad had it been the last of its kind, for the present year at least. But no; we have restlessness, unreason, and The O'Donoghue to the fore; and if these are insufficient to plunge Ireland in hot water, they contrive to steep it in a lukewarm element which brings its customary consequences. It is not politic, perhaps, to treat the meeting at Dublin on Monday seriously, but we cannot help repeating the question—asked a thousand times before—why does Ireland suffer herself to be deluded from her true interests to pursue phantoms whose embraces would destroy her? We were gravely assured lately by an Irish gentleman who appeared to know his country pretty well that fifty thousand men would rise in arms to join any French invader in the south. Are there fifty men, north, south, east, and west, who really imagine they would benefit by French rule? The chimera itself is scarcely more monstrous than the conception that any fifty sane men believe in it. And as for this renewed cry for Repeal, it is only less treasonable, it is not a whit less fatuous, than overtures for a French invasion. In the first place, Repeal will be no more tolerated than invasion; in the next, the most patriotic Irishman can hardly select for his country a surer alternative of ruin. "Ireland for the Irish!" is not a bad cry; but give Ireland over to the government of such leaders as we now see uppermost—or rather give her over to be torn by factions, by Orangemen and Ribbonmen, by North and South, in a contest for ascendancy—and she might indeed become a paradise—on the pattern of Donnybrook fair.

But putting aside the political element of the question, leaving The O'Donoghue and his compatriots to the enjoyment of the beatific vision which the memory of the old Irish Parliament appears to conjure up before them (though it was, according to Macaulay, one of the most degraded and corrupt a country was ever cursed with), do the Repeal agitators consider the probable effect of their project on the industry of Ireland? How much of the capital and enterprise float there in commerce and agriculture is invested on the faith of that security which the Union affords? How much not only of capital, but of Ireland's best labour, would be withdrawn were Ireland left to the Irish, or, in other words, if the Irish were abandoned to the exercise of their taste for faction and anarchy? Surely this is a question worth considering. The industry of Ireland, and the value of property there, have been increasing steadily for several years; repeal the Union, and down they must go.

However, the project is altogether too wild to deserve serious discussion; especially as, were its attainment once to appear probable, we should soon hear an opposition cry in Ireland itself at least equally loud; and, if this be the case, the plausible grounds on which the National Petition for Repeal is based disappear. The argument of the Repealers is, that the principle on which the British Government sanctions the Italian revolution is exactly applicable to Ireland—that no Government should be forced on any nation, but that every people should be at liberty to govern itself as it pleases. Common sense declares at once that this principle can only hold good for any part of an empire when reasonable grounds for discontent with the Imperial rule can be shown, and when the revolters are capable of independent government. Neither of these conditions exists in the case of Ireland. She lives under the freest institutions in Europe, and her capacity for self government is to be measured by the genius of The O'Donoghue. But, supposing a nation more fortunate in this respect, the cry for independence must be general before any attention can be paid to it. Now, the "repeal agitation" in Ireland is confined to a strong faction, from which the better elements of society are absent. On the ground adduced for it, then, the project is untenable; on every ground it is unwise. The bubble bursts as soon as it is blown; and if our fellow-subjects opposite must still engage in such pastime, neglecting the true and only means for ensuring content and prosperity, we can only say we are sorry for them, and wish them better advisers.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY'S contemplated visit to Osborne, which was fixed for Thursday last, is postponed in consequence of the prevalence of fever in the Isle of Wight.

THE DRAMATIC SEASON AT WINDSOR CASTLE was inaugurated on the evening of Thursday week by the representation of "Daddy Hardacre" and "B.B." A large and distinguished audience was present on the occasion.

AT THE MEETING OF THE ROYAL ACADEMICIANS on Wednesday week Mr. George Gilbert Scott was elected an Academician in the room of Sir Charles Barry.

A NEW EXPEDITION TO CENTRAL AFRICA in search of Dr. Vogel is being prepared in Germany.

A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION is about leaving France to explore Southern Siberia, and particularly that portion contiguous to the Amoor.

FATHER KENNA, a Roman Catholic priest at Bolderston, near Sheffield, has been accused of making a Protestant girl, whose mother was a Roman Catholic, burn a Bible.

LEIGH HUNT'S PRIVATE LIBRARY—at least a large number of books formerly in his possession—Messrs. Ticknor and Fields, the eminent publishers of Boston, have published and hold at private sale. Among them are many presentation copies from authors, and a large number are enriched with notes in the handwriting of the poet.

A NEW WORK OF ARCTIC TRAVELS, from the pen of Sir John Richardson, is about to be published under the title of "The Polar Regions."

THE BISHOP OF LORRITO and RECANATI has pronounced the excommunication of the clergy of Santa Casa for having been guilty of receiving Victor Emmanuel.

THE SUCCESS OF THE FRENCH ARMS IN CHINA is attributed by the *Constitutionnel* to the influence of Christianity.

THE LATE MR. E. CHALON, R.A., expressed a wish some time before his death to offer to the nation a collection of his own drawings, together with many of his deceased brother's works, on condition of a suitable gallery being built for them. This offer was not accepted, much to the artist's disappointment.

SIR JOHN BOWRING is said to have become diplomatic agent for the Sandwich Islands.

IT IS RUMOURED AT WARSAW that a medical student who took part in the political demonstrations which were made while the Sovereigns were in that city expired while corporal punishment was being inflicted on him. The unhappy youth was sentenced by his Judges to "paternal" (*väterlich*) punishment.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT are actually building steam-vessels at St. Cloud for the Imperial Navy. They have just launched from opposite the park a screw dispatch-boat called the *Argus*. She was commenced only in May last; but from 150 to 200 workmen have been constantly employed on her.

A BODY OF AMERICAN MILITIA are expected to visit Paris.

MR. WOODWARD, her Majesty's new Librarian, is preparing plans for the publication of the whole body of the Stuart Papers in the Queen's possession.

THE REV. CHARLES STYLES DRAKE has been found dead in the canal near Cosgrove, Northamptonshire: he appears to have fallen in accidentally, as he was returning home from a dinner party.

SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE KENSINGTON LIFE ACADEMY propose to establish a Sketching Society, of similar character to the well-known Sketching Club, of which Sir E. Landseer, the Chalmers, Messrs. Creswick, Stanfield, &c., were distinguished members.

THE LATE SIR CHARLES NAPIER was in the habit of asserting that the steam block-ships *Edinburgh*, *Hastings*, *Blenheim*, &c., were useless as men-of-war; and it would appear that he was not singular in entertaining such an opinion, for we hear that a plan has been submitted to the Admiralty by which it is proposed to iron-plate these ships.

THERE HAS BEEN A PAINT WHISPER of the possible retirement of Lord Cowley.

AN ACTION IN THE SECONDARIES' Court, brought by Miss Cockshott, a governess, against the Rev. H. Brett, of Manchester, for breach of promise of marriage, was compromised for £1200; the damages were laid at £3000.

A GAMEKEEPER at Fettescairn, wishing to kill the roving dog of a farmer, poisoned a couple of rabbits, and left them in the animal's way. The farmer, happening to find them, took them back to the gamekeeper's house, and, not knowing of the poison, threw them to the dogs, which all died.

MR. FROUDE is to be the new editor of *Fraser*.

THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF H.M.S. *Icarus*, on the West India station, have suffered severely from yellow fever. Fifty-three men and several officers have died. Captain Salmon was very ill.

A LETTER FROM SEBASTOPOL announces that General Todleben was there, and that the fortifications on the north side are undergoing repairs.

A NUMBER OF FORGED NOTES of the Stratford-upon-Avon Old Bank (branch of the Stourbridge and Kidderminster Banking Company), purporting to have been issued at Stratford, and dated October 4, 1859, are in circulation.

TWO TRADESMEN AT DUMFRIES, having had a severe drinking bout, took morphia to settle their nerves, but to such an extent that one of them was found dead and the other on the verge of death.

THE GOVERNMENT RIFLE-RANG at FLEETWOOD is being rapidly prepared.

A LARGE WHALE HAS BEEN CAPTURED in Loch Sunart, Argyshire.

THE COMMERCIAL TREATY between the Hanse Towns in Germany and Sardinia has been concluded with the latter, as representative of the whole of Italy now united under King Victor Emmanuel's sway.

A COPYRIGHT TREATY has been concluded between England and Sardinia.

YELLOW FEVER broke out on board the British man-of-war *Jarvis*, at Truxillo. Eleven of her crew and two officers died, and many of them were sick, including Captain Salmon. Subsequently, on her passage to Jamaica, she reported thirty-three dead, and still a heavy sick list.

LORD BURY was duly elected for the Wick Burghs on Saturday.

ON A FARM IN THE OCCUPATION OF MR. MARRIAGE, at Springfield, Essex, in a field of several acres, the crop of wheat remained uncut up to Saturday last, December 1.

THE GREEK CHAMBERS have been dissolved.

THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY INCREASE in the rate of mortality in the metropolis during the last five weeks, probably to be ascribed to the cold, damp air which has so much prevailed.

A FISHING-LOGGER came into Great Yarmouth harbour on Tuesday with seven of her crew missing. The poor fellows perished in a rather heavy gale which blew off the east coast on Sunday night.

BARON DE ROTHSCHILD is said to be negotiating for the purchase from the Count de Chambord of the forest of Vassy. This is the last portion of the property held by that Prince in France, with the exception of Chambord.

JOHN BOURNE, aged nine, a pupil at a public school at Exeter, has died, it is alleged, from injuries inflicted upon him by Hawker, a pupil-teacher, and Hawker has been committed for manslaughter.

SIR HENRY MARSH, the eminent physician, died on Saturday at his residence in Merriem-square. Sir Henry rose apparently in his usual health, and, when about to leave his house, he was seized with an apoplectic fit, and expired.

THE VICKROY OF EGYPT, Said Pacha, has announced his intention of shortly going on a pilgrimage to Mecca.

TWO BOYS are in custody at Manchester charged with wilfully burning wheat and hay to the value of £700.

INSUBORDINATION is reported to be rather common at Aldershot.

THE QUEEN has given the crew of H.M.S. *Orlando* three days' pay in acknowledgment of the extraordinary exertions they displayed in getting the ship ready to go in search of the Prince of Wales lately.

THE PERMANENT INCREASE OF BUSINESS in the various departments of the Admiralty at Somerset House has led to an addition to the number of established clerks.

THE MERCHANTS OF BRADFORD, we hear, propose to invite the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Cobden to a public banquet in that town.

THE PERFORMANCES at the Théâtre des Variétés at Toulouse were interrupted a few nights back by an enormous rat, which fell from the roof into the pit, ran to the orchestra, and at last took refuge on the stage, to the terror of the actresses, who uttered exclamations not to be found in the prompter's copy. The intruder was killed by one of the musicians.

THE *China*, laden with cotton, and bound from New Orleans to Liverpool, was totally destroyed by fire at sea on the 6th of November. The crew were rescued by the ship *Ocean Bride*, transferred to the steamer *Quaker*, and landed at New York.

A CLERK of the Sheffield and Rotherham Bank, named Mark Rawlins, is charged with embezzling a large sum of money. As far as at present known, the amount of defalcation is about £1000.

THE QUEEN'S BENCH SENTENCE on MISS AYLWARD (at Dublin) has been confirmed by the Court of Common Pleas. She subsequently served a notice on the governor that she is illegally detained.

THE *Moscow Gazette* renders a striking homage to Garibaldi, "to that individuality so pure." It is remarkable that the Russian press expresses itself in the most favourable terms on the attitude assumed by the Italian General in the late events.

THE REV. DR. JAMES ROBERTSON, Professor of Church History in Edinburgh University, and long a leader in the General Assembly, died at Edinburgh on Sunday afternoon.

THE ANTOR HOUSE at NEW YORK was on fire for three hours on the 6th ult., and 3000 dollars damage was done; but the hotel business was not interrupted.

THE *Gazette* of Verona contains an article which seems to foreshadow negotiations between Austria and Sardinia for the purpose of putting an end to "French and English interference in Italy."

THE SEAMEN OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND have issued an address to their brother mariners giving their reasons for supporting the Admiralty scheme of forming a naval reserve.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE old agitation for repeal of the union, which was at one time so fiercely carried on by O'Connell at his monster meetings, is again renewed in Ireland, under the leadership of "The O'Donoghue." This handsome young gentleman is the member for Tipperary; but he has no intention of bringing into the field an army of those famous fighting-men, the Tipperary bogtrotters, armed with the time-honoured shilleagh, to enforce his claim for "repeal." The agitation is to be a peaceable one. The claim is to be enforced, not by shilleaghs, but by a syllogism. "You Englishmen, with your Premier and Foreign Secretary, say that, if nations be dissatisfied with their rulers, they have a right to change them. Ireland is dissatisfied with its rulers, and therefore it has a right to choose others." This is The O'Donoghue's syllogism, and he chuckles over it amazingly, and fancies that he has got the English people into a logical fix. But there are two mistakes in this logical proposition. First, The O'Donoghue's premises are not correct. Ireland is not dissatisfied with its rulers. It was once, and justly so; but for the last thirty years Ireland has been, on the whole, well and justly governed, and every year the people have become increasingly satisfied with English rule. And then there is another fault in The O'Donoghue's proposition. He has left the conclusion incomplete. The nations dissatisfied with their rulers have a right to change them—if they can, he should have said. History proves everywhere that might and rights generally go together. Philosophers talk of abstract rights, but statesmen can seldom recognise rights when there are not might to back them. Unless, therefore, The O'Donoghue can bring an army into the field, his poor syllogism will avail him nothing. Against England's might it will prove a mere pointless dart. The O'Donoghue is of a very ancient race—may possibly trace back to Dermot M'Murrough or Brian Boroihme; but he must submit to fate and the "Saxon stranger" unless he has might as well as abstract rights. I have often been struck with the difference between the Irishman in the House of Commons and the same Irishman in Ireland. To read the speeches of The O'Donoghue in Ireland upon this and other matters you would naturally imagine that we shall have an awful row in Parliament when the House assembles; but you may rely upon it we shall have nothing of the sort. It is more than probable that there Repeal will not be mentioned; and as to our handsome Irish friend, who in Ireland is so fast and furious, you will see him in the House as quiet as a sucking dove. It would be capital fun if The O'Donoghue would venture a joust with that syllogism of his against Lord Palmerston; but he will not, we may be sure.

Already rumours begin to float about touching the tactics of the various political parties in the coming Session. It seems to be agreed upon an all sides that the Government will propose no Reform Bill. A bankruptcy measure will certainly be laid upon the table; but it is thought that Sir Richard Bethell will divide it into several bills, each complete in itself. If this can be done it will be much better than presenting a cumbersome bill of upwards of 400 clauses, like that of last Session. The Conservatives will meet Parliament next Session somewhat stronger than they were last. Indeed, it is said that the two parties are now pretty evenly balanced. There is a rumour that the Conservatives will wait patiently till Gladstone shall present his Budget, and then, if there should be a large deficit to be made up, they will attack the Government, with a view to its overthrow. But I cannot myself think that they will venture upon such a move; for, supposing that there should be a deficit, how can they make it up? What tax can they lay on which the people would submit to? What retrenchment can they make with their often-expressed opinions that a still larger expenditure on our Navy and Army ought to be incurred. Besides, in the present state of foreign affairs, I do not believe that they would be able to unite in sufficient force to eject Lord Palmerston from power, for, though upon paper the Conservative army is very strong, it has a large number of moderate Liberal Conservatives in its ranks whom no zeal of the Whips could bring to the scratch in such a fight. And then, again, there is the illness of Lord Derby. It is true that his Lordship is recovering; but it may be fairly doubted whether he will feel inclined, after such an attack, to advise a struggle which might involve his taking office. There was a paragraph in the *Press*, to which I alluded last week, denying in strong terms that the noble Lord ever intended to resign the post of Conservative leader; and this may be true, though I think that its truth is more than doubtful. But, though he may not have resolved to vacate the post of leadership, it is next to certain that he would be very cautious not to add to the difficulties of that post by entering upon a struggle for place; and, further still, it is well known that the old schemes in the party are not yet healed up—the dissatisfaction with Mr. Disraeli's leadership, the dissatisfaction on the part of an extreme Protestant section of the party with the late Conservative Government's policy in reference to the Irish Catholics. It will be remembered that so strongly did Mr. Newdegate feel on this subject that he openly and ostentatiously left his seat behind the Conservative chiefs and perched himself upon the top seat below the gangway. On the whole, then, I do not believe that the Conservative chiefs will venture upon a struggle for office; and, if they should, I venture to prophesy that they will fail. A Radical paper has hinted that if Disraeli will promise a Reform Bill he

will have the support of the Radical section of the House. But I do not believe he would; for, in truth, there are not ten men in the House who want a Reform Bill, and I am quite sure that Disraeli will not again propose a Reform Bill in a hurry.

On Sunday last there was a grand mass performed in honour of, or in gratitude for (whichever phrase may be right), the return of Cardinal Wiseman to England in health. Where he has been to I know not, but I should suppose to Italy, though one would hardly think that to be a place to which a Cardinal would go for health just now. However, the illustrious Father has returned home to his "diocese of Westminster," and on Sunday St. Mary's, Moorfields, was decked out with laurels and flowers, and there was a gorgeous assemblage of bishops and priests, and the organ and fiddlers sent forth their grandest strains to receive him with honour, or to thank God for his return; for, as I have hinted, I am not exactly sure what it all meant. To those who like and are moved by such displays this must have been very impressive. Every Scagliola column was enriched by laurels, from base to capital, and every capital was wreathed with dahlias, either real or fictitious. The dais leading to the high altar was carpeted specially for the day. On the right of the altar there was a canopied throne for the Cardinal, whilst on the altar itself there was such a blaze of gilding, and flowers, and crimson velvet that it was difficult to look at it continuously. The performance began about half-past eleven by the entrance of my Lord Cardinal in state, preceded by a number of boys with wax tapers and a crossbearer, and followed by a procession of Bishops and other functionaries. All these were dressed in robes more or less resplendent—I suppose, according to their rank—and two clad in crimson velvet, embossed with golden crosses and other more recondite symbols, unintelligible to me, were very resplendent indeed. But my Lord Cardinal was the grand figure in the scene. He is, as most people know, tall and portly, very much like the portraits of Cardinal Wolsey as to size and figure; and as, no doubt, a cardinal's dress has undergone but little change for centuries, I suppose he was clothed very much as Wolsey was when he used to sweep in state up the nave of old St. Paul's or Westminster Abbey. But, however that may be, his dress was a very grand one—as grand as the goldsmith and the milliner could make it. To describe it is beyond my art. Suffice it to say that on his head was the traditional red hat; on his breast and fingers a profusion of costly jewellery, whilst his train of mauve; or, rather, light crimson silk, was in length, I should think, a dozen yards at least. This train was borne by a beautiful little boy, artistically dressed in white trimmed with rich lace, and wearing red stockings and silver-buckled shoes. The Cardinal, after bowing low to the altar, took his seat upon his throne; and then the performance proper began. To describe the performance, with all the processionings, marchings, bowings, kneelings, kissing the Cardinal's hands, &c., &c., is impossible; it would require a book to do it. Let it be sufficient to say that it lasted an hour, and was very artistically done; and that, meanwhile, the organ, and the band, and the choir performed Beethoven's "Mass in C," and Handel's "Comfort ye," and "Every valley," not so artistically by a long way. On Wednesday there was a grand mass for the repose of the soul of the late Duke of Norfolk, according to notice "given at Westminster" by the Cardinal; and if I believed that the late excellent Duke needed my prayers, or that my poor applications could be of any avail, I should certainly have gone, for I knew the late Duke, and willingly bear my testimony that a more courteous, kind, and charitable man than he never lived; but, being a Protestant, and having been rather surfeited on Sunday, I did not go to performance No. 2.

The private business of the next Session, I hear, will be very great. Over 300 railway plans have been deposited; and one firm of Parliamentary agents has 90 private bills.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

THE first number of the new magazine, *Temple Bar*, regarding whose probable advent there was so much discussion a short time since, is now before us: it is an octavo of 144 pages, capably printed on good paper, and is confessedly the cheapest shillingworth ever issued. There was a somewhat general opinion that its contents would be rather of the "fast school," a second edition of the *Train*, whose lamentable decease at the age of two-and-a-half occurred some three years ago; but a glance at the table of contents must have staggered those who gave credence to this rumour, and a perusal of the magazine must have thoroughly settled the question. Mr. Sala's object has been to cater for the tastes of the reading public in general to whom his magazine in price and quality appeals, and the large number of pages at his disposal enables him to carry out his idea with thorough success. Thus, the scholar's taste has been consulted by the insertion of two articles—one, the first notice that has as yet appeared of Mr. Hepworth Dixon's *Life of Lord Bacon*, in which the biographer's work is succinctly reviewed, and his success in clearing the fame of his great idol aptly commented upon; the other an article descriptive and critical, on "The Kalewala," the epic poem of "the Finns." This paper is by Mr. Oxenford; and, as is the case with all his writings, is terse, polished, and scholarly. Either of these articles are fitted to compare with any similar paper, published in the high-priced magazines in their best days. Of the same kind are the articles on "Circumstantial Evidence" and "Criminal Lunatics," the first of which deals with the Road and Stepney murders, and comments upon the numerous cases of circumstantial evidence which are well authenticated; while the other, taking the opinion of Dr. Hood, the physician of Bethlehem, for its text, urges a powerful remonstrance against the present system of remitting to the common asylum those convicts who have committed frauds under the supposed influence of mania. The lover of light literature will find the commencement of a very prettily-written serial story, entitled "For Better, for Worse," a short tale, "Gold and Dress," and the first instalment of Mr. Sala's "Travels in Middlesex"—the journey this month, "From Temple Bar to Kensington Turnpike," being in the writer's best style, written with all the graphic, gossiping, pleasant power of his early days. Wielding a free pen and rescued from editorial supervision, Mr. Sala is somewhat discursive, but therein lies his great charm. There are few authors who could write so pleasantly and agreeably about by-the-way things. Among light reading may also be classed "The Father of the French Press," a capital sketch of Renardot, the earliest Parisian journalist; and "Over the Lebanon to Baalbek," a paper on Eastern travel by the Rev. J. M. Bellow, which, beginning somewhat flippantly, warms into an eloquent and lucid description of personal visit and adventure. The article on "Soldiers and Volunteers" is of different calibre, and is marked throughout by careful treatment and thorough knowledge of the subject treated of. We have kept the poems until the last because no new venture of late years has shown itself so rich in good verse. Mr. Stigaut's "Northern Muse" is a very gem of a ballad, abounding in poetical thought; the first of the London poems, "Temple Bar," has a grand, rich, harmonious flow, and contains many illustrations and similes betokening great and rare genius; and Mr. Mortimer Collins's "Under the Cliffs" is a sweet, musical song. Altogether, then, we may say that the first number of *Temple Bar* has fulfilled its promise—large though that promise was—and that it exhibits every symptom of healthy vitality. The sale is understood to be very large.

The *Cornhill* opens with a second letter from Paterfamilias to the editor on the shortcomings of public schools, which is as straightforward, as sensible, and as true as its precursor, and no doubt will prove the thin end of the wedge towards the introduction of some better system. Three chapters of "Framley Parsonage" follow, the events of which are truly, eloquently, and naturally described, and which go far to make up for the verbose dreariness which we have had hitherto to encounter. But why does Mr. Trollope persevere in that coarseness which has disfigured all his writings? A few months since Miss Lucy Roberts averred that she "could not make such an unutterable ass of herself," and she now talks of "going moaning about like a sick cow." This is not the language of

a young lady, we opine. "Ariadne at Laxos" is a dull poem, not enlivened by a wretched outline illustration, which looks as though it had been pilfered from Potter's Grecian Antiquities. "The History of a Fable," a literary article tracing the origin of the fable to the East, is very readable, and cleverly worked out. "The Criminal Law" and "Success" are average essays; and "Our Natural Enemies" is a lucid exposition of the decay in stone which has lately been attracting the attention of savans. The author of the article "Behind the Curtain" is a grim cynic, chuckling over the about-to-be-quashed rapture of a budding dramatist, and showing him what fate awaits him in the dim future: the writer knows his subject well, handles his scalpel deftly, and lays bare the rottenness of the theatre, stripping off the tinsel and the cotton velvet, and rubbing off the paint with a ruthless hand. But *cui bono*? Why should we be told in the *Cornhill* Magazine that all theatrical illusion is trick, that actors do not work spontaneously, but are selfish in their choice of characters, and foolish out of their socks and buskins? Why destroy the little glowworm left to the footlights, and show us the flats and wings of daubed canvas and the ordinary mortals strutting beneath them? There are some of us yet who like to shut our eyes to the very obvious machinery, and refuse to know "how it's all done."

Blackwood is dull to a degree! The second part of an article on "Iron-clad Ships of War," a refutation by Mr. G. H. Lewes of certain strictures on his "Theories of Food," heavy essays on "Our only Danger in India" (the native army), and "Social Science," and continuations of "The Romance of Agostini" and "Norman Sinclair," make up a number unexampled in dreariness.

Fraser is much better, for A. K. H. B.'s excellent essay "Concerning Screws, being Thoughts on the Practical Issue of Imperfect Means," assuming every man to be, in horse language, a screw, but showing what good he can do in his generation, is enough to save the number. Pleasant, truthful, and witty, it enables us to get through the elephantine fullness, the heavy gambols of "Shirley" in his essay, "Mr. Ruskin at the Seaside," reeking with attempted humour and Scotch wit. "The Forests and Pearl Fishery of Ceylon" is a very interesting paper. The sketch of De Quincey is very meagre. Surely it must be in error that the writer says he at one time took 8000 drops of laudanum daily! This is rather better than an imperial pint.

Nothing will probably appear this season more excellent in its way than Beeton's *Christmas Annual*. It is a marvellous shillingworth, regarded as so much paper and print; but, what is more to the purpose, the book is well and variously written, and contains many admirable illustrations. "Uncle Heeper" is a capital story of the terrible school; "Christmas in the Gutter" is also very good; and Mr. Rands's "Finding of Aegard" is a really beautiful poem. Charming is the description of

Lyle Malfred, whiter than the ptarmigan,
And kinder than a mother's dying thoughts
Of those she leaves, and like a fire-tree tall,
And gayer than a new-thawed beck in spring,
And sweeter than a thousand roses crushed,
And wiser than a wizard with his runes;
Bright as a sword, and true as faithful death
To him she loved, and better than her word.

Measured by the price commonly set by publishers on poetical compositions, this poem is quite worth the whole cost of the *Annual*, which is altogether so good that it is sure to find many readers, especially amongst ladies.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH.

THE Empress of the French has come southward, visiting Preston, Manchester, and Leamington on the way. She made good use of her time while in Manchester. She visited in succession Peel Park, the Free Library, and two or three of the many great factories and warehouses. In the course of the day the Mayor presented an address which the Corporation had adopted, and her Majesty took occasion to express the gratification which her visit to Manchester had afforded her.

On Sunday the Empress stayed at Leamington, attending High Mass at the Roman Catholic chapel. In the evening she left for London.

On Tuesday her Majesty arrived at Windsor Castle on a visit to her Majesty. The Prince Consort was in attendance at the railway station to accompany the Empress to the castle in one of the Royal carriages. The Empress, having taken lunch with the Queen, returned to London in the afternoon, the whole visit not having extended over more than two hours.

The *Moniteur* publishes the following:—

We are informed from England that the journey of the Empress, undertaken with the sole view of improving her health, becomes, despite all the precautions of her Majesty to preserve her incognito, a real ovation.

In Scotland, wherever she has been recognised, the towns have hastened to present addresses to her; the lords of the soil have vied with each other in doing the honours of their noble mansions.

On the 25th of November the Empress paid a visit to her cousin, the Princess Mary, at Hamilton Castle.

At Stirling and at Glasgow the volunteers turned out and gave cheers for the Emperor and Empress.

At Preston and at Manchester the reception given to her Majesty was the more significant as her Majesty was not expected. In the great manufacturing city of Manchester the reception assumed quite a character of enthusiasm. "Vive la France!" "Vive la paix!"—such were the shouts which greeted her Majesty.

These sympathetic manifestations of the English nation can only tend to strengthen the bonds between the two nations. They show in a striking manner how the common sense of the masses discards the violent and thoughtless attacks of which a portion of the press does not fear to make itself the organ.

THE NEW BISHOP OF DURHAM.—We omitted to state that the portrait of Dr. Villiers in our last number was engraved from a photograph by Mr. Bannister, of Carlisle.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN CATTLE.—During the decade comprised between the years 1850 and 1859, inclusive the imports of foreign cattle and sheep, were as follows:—

Year.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Year.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1850	66,162	143,493	1855	97,400	162,000
1851	86,520	201,859	1856	94,777	165,588
1852	93,061	230,037	1857	92,963	178,207
1853	125,251	259,420	1858	59,001	131,482
1854	114,200	183,400	1859	85,477	250,582

On the whole, it will be seen that the imports have a tendency to increase, and they would probably advance to a much greater extent were not the means of supply limited.

THE COLUMBIA MISSION.—The first anniversary meeting of the establishment of the British Columbia Mission was held at the Mansion House yesterday week. The meeting was very numerously attended. The Lord Mayor occupied the chair, in this particular imitating his predecessor, who presided at the farewell meeting to Bishop Mills, which was held in the same place a year ago. The report of the progress which the mission has made under the Bishop's superintendence was of a most encouraging character—Englishmen, Americans, Africans, Indians, and Chinese having all, more or less, participated in the advantages of missionary labour. The Bishops of London and Oxford both pleaded the cause of the mission with great earnestness. Mr. Chichester Fortescue, the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, also expressed the interest which his department felt in the undertaking, and urged strongly the claims which it possessed upon public support, arising from its entire dependence upon the voluntary principle. That principle, we may add, has never been more nobly vindicated than it has been in the history of this mission. A special point was made of the discouragement which the Bishop has given to the prejudice against colour and to the negro-pew system.

RELIGIOUS TOLERATION IN SWEDEN.—A Stockholm correspondent of the *Independence* writes to correct some statements of that journal regarding the amount of religious liberty which is at present enjoyed in Sweden, and which he sums up as follows:—1. The old law decreeing banishment or other punishment against one who professed any other religion than the Lutheran has been abolished. Consequently, any Lutheran may enter into a different religious community without any other risk, if he is in the civil service, than the loss of his place, if it should happen to be one of those which by the Constitution can only be held by a Lutheran. 2. No one, however, may leave the Swedish Church before his eighteenth year, or before he has given notice to the minister of his parish. 3. Dissenters are forbidden to preach any other religion than the Lutheran beyond the parish in which they reside.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

The Workmen's Volunteer Brigade is now recommended by the Court of Lieutenancy for sanction by the War Office, under its new title of "The 3rd London Rifle Volunteer Corps." Under the trying circumstances to which the men have been exposed, through the long delay and consequent doubt as to their acceptance, they have held together wonderfully well. Their roll numbers 1400 men. Their uniform is scarlet frock with buff facings, and white belts, a scarlet undress cap, and dark trousers, with a white piping. There are several old soldiers among them. Sergeant Bush, of No. 2 company, is the brave fellow who carried Massey from the Redan, and the corps altogether boasts a fair sprinkling of medals in its ranks.

The council of the 30th Middlesex have, in consequence of the large increase of volunteers who have recently joined the corps, resolved to substitute the comprehensive title of "The Finsbury" for the more local designation of Clerkenwell. The corps now consists of more than 600 effective members.

The members of the Westminster Corps of Volunteers mustered on parade in very great strength on Saturday evening at Westminster Hall, where they were inspected by Earl Grosvenor, Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding. The men, who appeared in full marching order, assembled at their respective drill-grounds, and marched down under the command of their officers to Westminster Hall, into which they poured, company after company, until they nearly filled the building. There were in all sixteen companies, including two of recruits, and mustering, without officers, 921 file.

A challenge given by Captain Wilbraham Taylor, of the 12th Middlesex (Barnet) Corps having been accepted by the Admiralty company of the Civil Service Rifle Corps, the match took place on Saturday, at the practice-ground of the challengers at Highwood-hill. The conditions of the match were that ten members should compete on either side, and should fire five shots at each of the ranges of 300, 500, and 800 yards. The Admiralty company were the victors by fifteen points.

The 11th Hunts Rifles, under the command of Captain Henderson, were inspected at Romsey yesterday week by Lieutenant-Colonel Luard, Assistant Inspector of Volunteers for the South-Western District. The weather was very unfavourable, but at the conclusion of the inspection Colonel Luard addressed the corps, expressing great satisfaction with their appearance and efficiency.

The Oxford University corps was inspected by Colonel M'Murdo on Monday afternoon, in Headington-hill Park. The corps mustered nearly 300 strong, and the inspection was witnessed by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the honorary Colonel.

It is proposed to start a corps composed of journeymen bakers. Only those working twelve hours will be able to join it.

The anniversary meeting of the Admiralty company of the Civil Service Rifle Corps was held this week at Somerset House, when the prizes which were competed for at the practice-ground of the corps at Wimbledon, in October last, were presented to the winners.

Official sanction has been given for the formation of the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Cambridgeshire Corps into an administrative battalion, to be commanded by Major Fryer, late Captain 2nd Cambridgeshire. Colonel M'Murdo reviewed the University Corps yesterday week in Parker's piece.

A numerous meeting of gentlemen of the Jewish persuasion was held at Zetland Hall, Goodman's-fields, on Tuesday night, when resolutions favourable to the formation of a corps of Jewish Rifle Volunteers were carried unanimously.

Yesterday week the Crickhowell or 3rd company of the Breconshire Rifle Volunteers contended for a handsome silver cup, presented to the corps by Lady Malden, and other prizes subscribed for by the members of the corps. The cup was won by Corporal Ramsey; second and third prizes by Privates Ramsey and William Lewis. The open prize was won by Private Hall, of the 2nd or Brynmawr company; second and third prizes by Privates Ramsey and Richards. The consolation prize was won by Private Morgan Prosser; second and third prizes by Privates Parry Lewis and Howth Williams.

The first rifle contest between the members of the 21st Lancashire (Wigan) Volunteer Corps was held last week on their practice-ground, about two miles from Wigan. There were several prizes. Privates Leader, Jackson, Halsall, Waddington, Lea, Fairhurst, and Sergeants Hilton, Dougan, Lowe, and Lamb were the winners.

On Monday there was a rifle shooting contest among members of the 1st and 2nd companies of the Wakefield battalion of Rifle Volunteers. The prizes competed for were two silver medals, one for each company, to be shot for annually, the winners to be entitled to wear them as badges of honour for one year. Fifteen members of the 1st and six of the 2nd companies, including officers, competed. Sergeant Glover won the 1st company medal, Ensign Hart the other.

The rifle contest of the St. Giles and St. George (Bloomsbury) Rifle Corps commenced on the 17th ult. at Harrow. The contest was resumed on Saturday last at the range of the Victoria Corps at Kilburn, when the remaining prizes were competed for. They were won by Sergeant-Major Hooper, Private Canick, Private D. Dolamore, the Captain Commandant, and Private Berridge.

The Carlisle Rifle Volunteers (1st Cumberland) were inspected on the parade-ground at Carlisle Castle yesterday week by Colonel Wake, who has just completed his inspection of the eastern division of the Cumberland battalion.

A rifle shooting-match between the volunteers of the 1st Staffordshire battalion took place on Monday on the ground of the Newcastle-under-Lyne Company. The prizes, three in number, offered were obtained by charging each of the competitors an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. 111 volunteers entered for the contest, and ninety-three joined in it: it was a very spirited one. The winner of the first prize (£6 18s. 9d.) was Private Crompton, Newcastle company; of the second (£4 12s. 6d.) Sergeant Higginbottom, Longton company; and of the third (£2 6s. 3d.) Lieutenant Dutton, Newcastle company. The distances were 200 yards and 300 yards, five rounds each.

THE ADULTERATION OF FOOD.—Dr. Letheby, the medical officer of the city of London, has, by request of the Commissioners of Sewers, furnished that body with a report on the best means of putting into force the recent Act for preventing the adulteration of articles of food or drink. Two classes of adulterations are provided for by the Act—the one embracing such articles as are injurious to the health, and the other those that are merely frauds on the purse. In some instances these two characters are combined. The purchaser who purposes to have an article analysed must inform the dealer of that fact before removing it from the shop. It is recommended by the medical officer that a uniform fee of 5s. be charged for an analysis, and that the analyst be authorised to conduct such inquiries for the poor gratis. Also, he suggests that the inspectors of meat and of markets should be empowered to purchase samples of suspected food or drink, and have them analysed. In conclusion, Dr. Letheby anticipates a beneficial result from his furnishing each quarter a tabular statement of the analytical work done, in which will be published a specification of the articles examined, with the name and address of the persons from whom they were purchased. In connection with this subject, it seems that now the authorities are beginning to make known the existence of the Act. A quantity of ground alum, which had been seized at various bakers' shops in the district, was lately brought before the magistrates at Wandsworth Police Court. Many summonses for selling adulterated bread and search-warrants have been issued.

MR. JAMES AND COUNT CAYOUR.—Mr. Edwin James has written to Count Cayour, recommending, in the new code of laws for Italy, and especially for Naples, the application of the great English Habeas Corpus Act, the "palladium," as he calls it, "of all British liberties," promising to send him a sketch of such a measure as he justly believes could not fail to be "valuable and popular in Italy." Mr. James also "suggests for Naples a law by which, as in England, a stipendiary magistrate should sit daily, and decide all cases brought before him in open court."

AN UNPUBLISHED WORK BY SIR WALTER SCOTT.—The following improbable statement is made in a New York weekly journal called *Every Saturday*, in connection with its announcement of a new and original story by Sir Walter Scott:—"It appears that, in the year 1829, Sir Walter Scott sent to a friend, connected with an aristocratic London Annual, a tale which he had written thirty years previously. By some unaccountable accident the story remained unpublished, and now, after the lapse of sixty years from the writing of it, for the first time it appears in print on this side of the Atlantic."

"THE COLLEEN BAWN."

OUR Illustration represents the most striking scene in Mr. Bourcicault's new drama: it is that which concludes with such effect the second act. The fair heroine, having been decoyed to the fatal spot in the Lake of Killarney by *Danny Man*, is saved from drowning by *Myles-na-Coppaleen*, who boldly plunges into the waters and rescues poor *Eily O'Connor*. The incident is the happy catastrophe of this successful drama, and has, doubtless, mainly contributed to the popularity which might well have depended on the ability with which the whole story has been adapted to the stage. It may be remembered that this striking scene was lately made the object of an injunction in Chancery, since its dramatic power and consequent success proved too tempting for the cupidity of some country manager, who boldly transferred it to some other play then in course of representation at his own theatre.

FASHIONS FOR DECEMBER.

THE form of bonnets for the winter season may now be considered as determined. They are by no means small. The brims are made somewhat broad in the centre of the forehead, and elevated so as to admit of rather profuse under-trimming of ribbon or flowers. This trimming is usually disposed in the style called "à bandeaux;" it is broad in the middle and narrower at the ends. Ruches of white tulle or black lace form the under-trimming at each side. Velvet is the most favourite material for winter bonnets, and violet and black are the prevailing colours. Feathers and lace are usually employed for the outside trimming. The strings should be of very broad and rich ribbon. We have observed a violet-coloured velvet bonnet, with piping of mauve velvet. A long mauve-coloured feather was fastened under the brim, and then turned back, so as to wave gracefully on one side. The effect was most elegant.

Velvet mantles are usually trimmed with rich guipure; but fur trimmings, so long laid aside, are this winter partially restored to favour. Nothing, certainly, is more distinguished than a black velvet mantle trimmed with broad bands of sable. A black velvet mantle just received from Paris presents a novelty in the style of trimming. It is edged with bouillons of black satin, intermingled with guipure. The effect is at once rich and elegant. Velvet mantles having long hanging sleeves should be lined with quilted satin or with rich plush. A violet lining accords well with a mantle of black velvet.

A new kind of evening wrap has been introduced in Paris, and is found to be a very useful safeguard against the risk of catching cold on leaving the theatres or other crowded assemblies. It is called the "l'paletôt Russe" (Russian paletôt), and it may be made either of velvet or of very fine cloth. In form it does not differ materially from the ordinary paletôt, except that it is very long, and has the addition of a pelerine descending very low in front. Many of these Russian paletôts

worn by ladies of high fashion in Paris are of velvet, and trimmed with the most costly sable or ermine. The lining is of silk or satin, quilted and wadded. Russian paletôts of a less costly description are made of very fine cloth, of any light colour, and trimmed with velvet or plush. These paletôts and the par-dessus shown in our Illustration (Fig. 1) will probably supersede the opera-cloaks so long in fashion.

Many dresses intended for evening costume are made of very rich silk, and consequently have little trimming. One recently made by a fashionable Parisian modiste is of white moiré antique broché, with leaves of the acanthus. The skirt has no trimming, and the sleeves, which are wide at the upper part, become rather close lower down, where they are trimmed with a ruche of green silk and white lace. A dress of black moiré antique has the skirt trimmed in very elegant style, with three broad bands of velvet embroidered with jet and edged with guipure. One of these bands passes from the waist to the edge of the skirt in a straight line, and those at each side diverged as they descended.

short lappets, trimmed with rosettes made of narrow violet-coloured velvet ribbon. Long flowing strings of violet-coloured velvet.

Fig. 5. Robe de chambre of grey armure, edged all round with a broad band of pink plush. Wide sleeves, slit up in front of the arm, and lined and edged with pink plush. The small pelerine, pointed in front, is trimmed to correspond. The robe is confined at the waist by a pink silk cord and tassels. Cap à la vieille of white lace, trimmed with pink ribbon.

"THE PETS."

THE painter's art never more immediately appeals to popular sympathies than when it portrays those domestic scenes which find a response amongst all classes of the community. Even such great historical pictures as contain within them some episode in the families of which they are the record find more favour in the eyes of the public than those which present merely the political or warlike



THE CAVE SCENE FROM THE MELODRAMA OF "THE COLLEEN BAWN," AT THE ADELPHI THEATRE.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Fig. 1. Dress of pink taffety; Par-dessus or opera-cloak of cerulean blue silk of the rich massive kind called armure. The par-dessus is slightly drawn in at the waist, and the pelerine, which is of a square shape, is trimmed at the edge with two falls of lace, the one black and the other white. Above the lace trimming there is a band of swansdown. The loose sleeves, as well as the lower edge of the par-dessus, are likewise edged with swansdown. Headdress, a wreath of roses.

Fig. 2. Robe of pink taffety; the short sleeves, formed of one puff, are edged with a trimming of blonde. The corsage is open in front; the opening being confined by bands of pink silk, beneath which there is a chemise of lace or worked muslin. Over the corsage there is a canezou berthe of pink silk, broad at the shoulders, and tapering to a point in front of the waist. It is edged with blonde, corresponding with that on the sleeves. Ceinture of broad pink ribbon, fastened on one side of the waist. Headdress of white blonde and pink ribbon.

Fig. 3. Robe of light green pout-de-soie, the skirt trimmed with three bands of the same kind of silk, but of a shade darker in colour; and each band of silk is headed by a narrow bias band of dark green velvet. The sleeves are wide at the upper part, and set in slight fulness at the shoulder; but more narrow at the lower part of the arm, where they are finished by a broad revers or cuff, corresponding with the trimming on the skirt of the dress. Cap of white blonde, trimmed with rosettes of narrow mauve-coloured ribbon. Under-sleeves and collar of worked muslin.

Fig. 4. Robe of Havannah-brown velvet, the corsage high, and buttoned up the front. The sleeves are wide, partially shaped to the elbow, and trimmed with two rows of black lace. Collar and under-sleeves of white lace. Cap of white blonde, with lace. Cap of white blonde, with lace.



doings of Kings or kingmakers. However humble may be the education or understanding of the critic, he is at least capable of appreciating a story which may form part of the experience of himself or his fellows; and in this country, happily, the domestic affections, the fireside events, are the sweet, low keynotes to which the best part of the national heart responds. We are able this week to publish an engraving from one of those simple pictures, which, although they pretend to no lofty intention, succeed in awakening pure and true interest, while they suggest a score of pleasing fancies, each of them perhaps more pure and more worthy than dreams of Kings and their battles; of statesmen and their shifting policies, their unscrupulous meanness.

Mr. William Lee has contributed to the New Water-colour Society a charming picture, and few men—still fewer women—can look at the sweet face of that young mother without feeling that even the poor fare and the scantily-paid labour by which she strives to live may be blessed in the maternal love which speaks in her overflowing eyes. Children perhaps never dream of the tender regard which watches and years over them. Their own pets and playthings only come in for a mere capricious and transitory liking; but to the mother who watches over their young lives no thought is so bitter as that of separation, no prayer more fervent than that they may fulfil the hopes of tender and unwearied love.

RAILWAY PROPERTY.

THE capital stock of Consols is at this time about £100,000,000; that of Railways about £385,000,000, of which some £330,000,000 have been actually expended. Consols pay, at the present quotations, about 3½ per cent; railways pay more, but their stock is not so saleable, because the property is not duly appreciated. Two-thirds of the money actually invested in railways has been distributed between twelve large companies, the aggregate capital of which exceeds £200,000,000, and this capital pays considerably better interest than Consols. The London and North-Western, for instance, pays 4½; the London and South-Western the same; the Great Northern over 5; and the London and Brighton, 6. None of these stocks, however, if measured by the value of Consols, stand at prices proportionate to the interest they yield. The security is solid, the prospect good, and the return tolerably secure; or, at any rate, only affected by so much uncertainty as to enhance the attractions of the bargain by a little infusion of speculation; but, for all this, railway property remains depreciated still. If the reason is asked, it can be very easily given. These enterprises were so extravagantly mismanaged at first, and the losses following on reaction were so great, that people naturally took alarm, and learnt to regard railways as hazardous and undesirable depositories for money. Then, when inquiry became more rigorous and the truth better understood, it was found that the capital accounts had been so swelled by lavish expenditure that only a portion of the profits actually earned could be applied to pay interest on original shares. All the rest was claimed for preferential shares, loans, debentures, and other incumbrances under all varieties of form. The force of this consideration will soon be felt when we state that of the whole £330,000,000 of aggregate stock, not much above one-half represents the "ordinary share capital" of the several companies. Even these drawbacks, however, could be gradually overcome, and, indeed, they are operating with less effect year after year; but the truth is that confidence has never been absolutely restored.

The resources which railways possess in the enterprise of the country are perfectly astounding. Projectors are notoriously enthusiastic, but no projector in this case ever caught a vision of the reality. The traffic returns are beyond anything that could have been conceived when railways were first laid down, and there seems no limit to their elasticity. In 1854 the aggregate of railway capital was, in round numbers, £286,000,000; in 1859 it was £334,000,000, having increased as nearly as possible to the extent of £50,000,000 by even and regular advances of £10,000,000 a year. Yet, as we have before remarked, the receipts have not only afforded a dividend on this increased sum, but a better dividend than formerly and there never was a year more auspicious than the soaking and dreary twelvemonth through which we have just passed. A curious table has been compiled of the gross revenues of twelve lines, of different classes, yielding, as was thought, a fair specimen of railway property in general, in which the receipts of last year are compared not only with those of 1849, but with an estimate for 1860. The result gives for 1849 some £6,700,000, for 1859 about £13,000,000, and for 1860 nearly £22,000,000.

It deserves, too, particular notice that this improvement in railway property is not due so much to improved management as to ever-extending traffic. It is the business itself which is so expansive. The very branches of traffic are multiplied, and every branch pays. Within the last few years what is called "residential" traffic has sprang up—that is, a traffic created by passengers going backwards and forwards between their residences and places of business, and this item alone amounted in 1858 to more than half as much as the Post Office paid for the carriage of mails.

All this while, too, the goods traffic has been increasing also, and to such purpose, indeed, that it now yields more than half the gross

receipts. Out of less than £24,000,000 earned in 1858, upwards of £12,000,000 was drawn from goods and cattle trains. Even the dog-boxes pay nearly £20,000 a year, and are increasing in productiveness.

In conclusion, we may state that last year four railway companies paid dividends at the rate of 1 per cent per annum and under, nine between 1 and 2 per cent, twenty-five between 2 and 3 per cent, thirty-two between 3 and 4 per cent, twenty-nine between 4 and 5 per cent, nineteen between 5 and 6 per cent, five between 6 and 7 per cent, four between 7 and 8 per cent, one between 8 and 9 per cent, and four between 9 and 10 per cent.

THE BIRMINGHAM CATTLE SHOW.

BINGLEY HALL opened its twelfth exhibition on Monday with a collection of fat animals, of roots, and birds, in every way maintaining the character of past years. The number of cattle and sheep was about the same; the entries of pigs fewer than last year. The poultry and pigeons were considerably shorter in number, owing, no doubt, to the clashing of the Crystal Palace Poultry Show next week, to which many of the south-country exhibitors have confined their competition. The root show was much larger than heretofore; but, whatever may be the

DENISON AND DENT.

At the Court of Probate and Divorce was heard this week a cause which may be told as follows:—

Mr. Frederick Dent enjoyed the proverbial luxury of the embarrassment of riches. He had realised a sum of some fifty thousand pounds, and his business as a watchmaker brought him yearly eight thousand pounds. He had neither wife nor children; but he numbered amongst his friends not only an eminent lawyer, but brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law, and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces. "Where the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together," and the scene in the clockmaker's room above his shop in the Strand a few months ago was a touching illustration of the old saying. There lay the sick man, attended by his two nieces and a disreputable surgeon; his door besieged by his relations, who in turn were kept outside by his legal friend and adviser, Mr. Edmund Beckett Denison, Q.C. To get away from all this turmoil and confusion was essential to his recovery, but the thing was impossible. As Mr. Partridge, the eminent surgeon, who was called in, declared, "Everybody objected to everybody else," and, after infinite disputes and discussions, the wretched man remained in his workshop till death bore him away from all his sufferings.

Then arose a grand contest as to who should share in the magnificent fortune he had left behind; and this contest has just been terminated after a trial of three days in the Probate Court. It seems that Mr. Frederick Dent was the stepson of Edward John Dent, the original founder of the family. Edward had been a workman in Arnold's shop, had set up for himself in business, and had left by his will a considerable fortune to his stepson Frederick. Mr. E. B. Denison, though an eminent barrister, was scarcely less devoted to mechanics, especially to clockmaking. He was the intimate friend of Edward Dent, consulted by him in all his affairs, and, besides being his executor, had dictated the manner in which he should dispose of his property. To show the great authority exercised by the Queen's Counsel over the ingenious workman, he only accepted the office of executor upon the condition that the will should be made according to his advice. From this will, it is proper to observe, Mr. Denison derived no sort of benefit. The result was that he obtained for Frederick a much larger share of his stepfather's fortune than was originally contemplated. Besides, Mr. Denison promised to be the protector and adviser of Frederick, and that promise he failed not to keep.

Naturally enough, a man of the ability and scientific knowledge of Mr. Denison was much regarded by Mr. Frederick Dent. He was consulted about everything. He constantly visited the shop, and went into Mr. Dent's private apartments. During the life of his wife, Mrs. Dent, there was no difficulty about his fortune, for to her he had bequeathed everything. Upon her death, however, the perplexing question of a will was reopened. Mr. Dent had a confidential legal adviser—a solicitor in a well-known house—and, following the ordinary course, Mr. Denison at first recommended that this gentleman should be sent for. Mr. Dent put the thing aside, but presently the question recurred. The two nieces, at the dictation of Mr. Dent, wrote down upon a slate the names of certain legatees, and finally Mr. Denison furnished Mr. Dent with a skeleton will. The blanks were filled up, partly by Mr. Denison himself, with legacies to the amount of several thousand pounds. Still this would scarcely be considered a complete will, for it did not touch the residue, amounting to about £15,000. No wonder that Mr. Denison should have said, "You have not settled the great thing yet." How, then, was it settled? Mr. Dent had, indeed, told Mr. Denison that he had no difficulty about it; nor had he at first, for the morning after it was signed he told Mr. Denison, "Well, I have settled

that, and I have put in your name at the end." Probably no man ever heard of his good fortune with more startling equanimity than Mr. Denison. He only shook hands with the dying man, and said, "I am very much obliged to you." At the same time, as he says, he just took a hasty glance at the will to see that matters were all right, and then recommended that the original should be sent to Coutts's.

Had this been done, perhaps the three days' trial might have been spared, and Mr. Denison might now be in the possession of Mr. Dent's fortune of £45,000. But Mr. Dent determined otherwise. Two copies were made—one of which was destined for Mr. Denison, but the original will and the other copy were kept. The will in question was executed on the 10th of March, 1860, and it is a singular document. With the exception of some few legacies to two nieces, to the foreman, and £150 a year to Mrs. Dent, the testator's mother, the whole clock business, yielding £8000 a year, was placed under the absolute control of Mr. Edmund Beckett Denison, and the residue, amounting, as Mr. Denison himself admits, to £45,000, was also bequeathed to Mr. Edmund Beckett Denison. The dying man had sprung from humble parents, he had many poor relations, his fortune was large, and yet the chief object of his munificence was a man without children and far removed from poverty. At the same time, Mr. Denison was a person of a headstrong, if not overbearing, disposition. Mr. Dent owed him much. He felt himself under some pressure, for he had complained of Mr. Denison "having hunted him up about his will," besides which the poor man was feverish and exhausted, gradually sinking under a complication of disorders.



THE PETS.—(FROM A PICTURE BY WILLIAM LEE.)

slight total falling off in the number of exhibitors and entries, the general character of the specimens competing for the £1300 worth of prizes, medals, and ornamental plate was never of greater excellence.

To the attractions of the exhibition this year was added a show of dogs. It was tried on a small scale last year, and was so far successful that, under the auspices of Lord Curzon and other gentlemen, it has been this year attempted on a larger and more complete scale, and, so far as the collection of dogs goes, with entire success. Sporting animals were in the greatest number, but there were very many other varieties of foreign and English breeds. There were the dogs from the kennels of the nobility and gentry all over the country; and the fancy prices placed on some of them to prevent a sale are something fabulous. The repository in which the dogs were exhibited was largely visited every day, a great number of the visitors being ladies. Such a collection of these animals had never before been witnessed in this country. The prizes included a dozen or more of silver cups, and money prizes from ten guineas downwards. This part of the exhibition being away from Bingley Hall, was an inconvenience which, it is to be hoped, will be avoided next year; and the management needed improvement, which experience will bring about.

A STATUE OF THE LATE GEORGE STEPHENSON is about to be erected in the Oxford Museum. Mr. Woolner, the sculptor of the statue of Bacon already there (the gift of the Queen) is to be the sculptor.

It is impossible to deny that enormous powers had been left to Mr. Denison, and it is not unnatural to suppose that the testator might desire to diminish them. Accordingly it seems that, on the morning of the 1st of April, Mr. Dent, after frequently repeating that Mr. Denison had too much power by the terms of the will, directed that the will should be destroyed by the two young women who attended upon him. Thus arose the chief question discussed in court—namely, whether the testator deliberately directed the destruction of the will. In the absence of all contradiction it was impossible for any jury to declare that two young women had deliberately perjured themselves for no other object than to spite Mr. Denison, and to deprive themselves of the legacies to which they would have been entitled had the will stood. There was, indeed, another question raised—whether the testator was competent at the time the act of destruction took place; but in support of such a view there was not a tittle of evidence. The result is that the will, part of which was originally prepared by Mr. Edmund Beckett Denison, is gone; and the £45,000 which was destined for that gentleman is divided among the relations of Frederick Dent.

OPERA AND CONCERTS

THE performances of the Italian company at Her Majesty's Theatre are drawing to a close, and, we believe, will terminate with the present week. "Lucia," "Lucrezia," and the "Trovatore" have been the Italian operas most in demand of late. Mdlle. Titiens and Signor Giuglini being still the chief "attractions" among the vocalists. One night, however, when the "Trovatore" had been announced, Mdlle. Titiens found herself too indisposed to sing, and was replaced by Mdlle. Parepa, who is heard to particular advantage in the part of Leonora, and who on this occasion was even more successful than usual. Mr. Swift, too, in "Robin Hood," has proved himself an efficient substitute for Mr. Sims Reeves, who first by illness, and afterwards by a domestic affliction, has been prevented several times from sustaining his original character in Mr. Macfarren's admirable opera, "Queen Topaz," which was to have been produced this week, has been postponed, but will probably be brought out immediately after the departure of the Italian singers.

At the Royal Italian Opera "The Marriage of Georgette" and "The Night Dancers" have together made up a very attractive programme, which, however, was to have been varied on Thursday by the production of Mr. Balfe's new opera, under the slightly melodramatic title of "The Bravo's Bride;" though, if the heroine is really the bride of a bravo, we do not see why the work should be called by any other name.

A correspondent of the *Musical World* has been writing some interesting letters from Vienna about Wagner's operas, of which, during the few weeks he spent in the Austrian capital, he had the opportunity of hearing three—"Tannhäuser," "Lohengrin," and "Der fliegende Holländer." He finds the last by far the most melodious, and seems to think it would succeed in England. The great Musician of the Future, however, is said to regard "The Flying Dutchman" as belonging to the "art-work" of the past, and to speak of it with so little respect that less would hardly be becoming on the part of a composer passing an opinion on one of his own productions. Wagner's music, and especially his musical theories, have been a good deal attacked (we have ourselves slung a small pebble now and then at his theory of opera), but he makes converts—chiefly, it is true, by setting his own theories at defiance; but, however that may be, he makes them. When Wagner the poet constitutes himself the architect of an opera, and only allows Wagner the musician to furnish the verbal edifice with such upholstery as he may deem strictly suitable for its adornment, then Wagner the musician pleases only the very few who believe in Wagner the poet's theories. But when Wagner the musician forgets his theories and covers the scaffolding of Wagner the poet's libretto with good musical masonry, of which the solidity and beauty cause the underlying framework to be lost sight of, then Wagner the musician pleases those who have never even heard of Wagner the poet's theories. The reader must blame Wagner and not us if he finds it difficult to understand the preceding sentences. The illustration from housebuilding occurs in the "Opera and Drama." "You want a house built (that is to say, an opera)," remarks Herr Wagner, "and you apply to the sculptor or upholsterer; of the architect, however—who comprises in himself both sculptor and upholsterer, as well as the other persons whose help is necessary to the erection of the house, because he gives an object and arrangement to their common exertions—you never think." It suits Herr Wagner to call the composer of an opera an upholsterer, while the librettist is nothing less than an architect, because he is in himself architect and upholsterer together; but it would be much truer to say that the writer of a libretto merely furnishes the composer with a sketch, to which the latter gives colour, light, and shade, and, to the best of his ability, all that is necessary for converting it into a beautiful picture.

However, we were about to say that Mr. Wagner's operas appear to have taken a firm hold on the Viennese public; they are, moreover, played at Munich, at Dresden, at Hanover—above all, at Weimar and at Berlin; in short, everywhere in Germany where operatic representations of importance take place. "Tannhäuser," too, is now about to be played in Paris. Let us hope that there was some truth in the rumour that an English version of this work would be produced after Christmas at Covent Garden.

The French journals, ever since the production of "Semiramide" at the Grand Opera of Paris, have been full of the praises of the sisters Marchisio, who sustained the parts of the Assyrian Queen and Arsace, and did far more to aid this latest success of Rossini's magnificent work than all the admirable scenery and decorations, which were executed expressly for it, and which are said to have been as valuable to antiquarians, from their historical accuracy, as they were interesting to the general public from their mere pictorial splendour. Indeed, if Mr. Layard, instead of troubling himself about the Southwark electors, had paid a visit a week or two since to the Académie Royale of Paris, he might, during the representation of "Semiramide," have fancied himself transported into the midst of the Nineveh of his dreams—for we may suppose that the discoverer and virtual reconstructor of Nineveh dreamt occasionally of his favourite and once almost fabulous city before he became a candidate for the suffrages of the unruly borough which it is just now his ambition to represent. However, the great success of the revived, redecorated "Semiramide" in Paris appears to have been chiefly due (of course, after the illustrious composer himself) to the wonderful performance of the sisters Marchisio, whose duet-singing in particular is said to be almost beyond praise and quite beyond rivalry. As these now celebrated vocalists are to make their appearance in London next season, where we hope they will have an opportunity of singing together in "Semiramide," some particulars of their career in Italy, before their visit to Paris, may not be unacceptable to our readers. We learn from one of the numerous memoirs of these vocalists that have already been published that they were born at Turin, and belong to a family which has included many musicians of great ability. One of their brothers, Antonio Marchisio, was a composer of note, and Joseph was a first-class pianist. From their earliest years both sisters manifested an extraordinary aptitude for music, and this was encouraged by both brothers, who did all in their power to develop their talent to its fullest extent. Antonio gave them all the instruction he was enabled to do, and when he and Joseph discovered that both Carlotta and Barbara had beautiful voices, they placed them under the most efficient singing-masters. Their progress was remarkable. After performing for some years at concerts and private parties, they at last tried the stage, and here a new career of success awaited them. They visited the chief cities of Italy and Spain, and sang at all the principal theatres, including the Scala and the San Carlo. Wherever they went their ensemble performances were particularly admired, and it seems to be agreed by all critics who have had an opportunity of judging that no such perfect duet-singing as theirs has ever been heard.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE POULTRY SHOW is fixed to commence on Wednesday, the 12th inst., and continue till the 15th. Nearly 1000 "pens" are entered for exhibition.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY TREATY OF COMMERCE.

THE Supplementary Treaty of Commerce between the United Kingdom and France has at length been published. On the whole, the changes announced by the Convention—although they are, as might be expected, much more favourable to the exportation to France of raw materials than manufactured articles—are, nevertheless, such as must undoubtedly increase the commerce between the two nations. Looking at the duties imposed with reference to our own tariff, they appear exorbitant; but, when compared with the duties previously prevailing in France, they may be considered almost as moderate. Thus, for instance, tissues of pure wool are to pay 15 per cent ad valorem, and carpets 32 per cent; but then tissues of wool were previously prohibited, and carpets were stricken with a duty so enormous as almost to amount to a prohibition. Cotton yarns now pay a duty varying according to quality from 15c. to 3f. per kilogramme. Bleached and dyed yarns are taxed at a somewhat higher rate; but then before the treaty cotton yarns, with some slight exceptions, were prohibited, as were yarns bleached and dyed. Cotton tissues, velvets, fustians, quiltings, damasks, counterpanes, nets, gauzes, and muslins, hitherto prohibited, are now admitted at moderate duties; and linens, though more highly taxed, are still sufficiently reduced to admit of importation. Silk tissues, lace, and hosiery are admitted free of duty, together with tiles, bricks, and draining-tiles. Glassware and table glass, hitherto prohibited, pay a duty of 10 per cent ad valorem; and fine earthenware and stoneware, hitherto prohibited, pay 20 per cent ad valorem. A large number of dyes and chemicals hitherto heavily taxed are admitted free.

The French Government is said to have abstained from dealing with the import duties upon paper by the recent supplemental convention, in order to give themselves an opportunity of negotiating with other Continental countries in favour of a more liberal policy in regard to the exportation of rags.

A "REVIVAL" IN EXETER HALL.

A STRANGE revival meeting was held a few evenings since in Exeter Hall. The proceedings were conducted by three laymen—Mr. Reginald Radcliffe, Mr. Richard Weaver (who was formerly a prizefighter), and Mr. William Carter.

The proceedings were opened with prayer, in the course of which the Almighty was earnestly implored to stretch down his arm from heaven over London for the purpose of converting it, and especially for the purpose of checking Popery, priestcraft, Puseyism, and devilism.

Mr. Carter read portions of the 6th chapter of St. Mark's Gospel, and in the course of a very energetic description of the efficacy of redemption assured his readers that it was not to be secured by lifting up a poor rotten cross or miserable crucifixes, not in going to churches with fine steeples, or listening to a lot of fellows with white nightgowns on. All these were miserable delusions. What was wanted was real conversion. The two classes in London who wanted it most being working men, ninety-eight out of every hundred of whom never went to a place of worship at all, and the unconverted nobility, many of whom were canting humbugs.

Mr. Weaver followed, and, from the excitement which prevailed immediately he arose, it was evident that he was the principal object of attraction. He commenced singing a hymn to the tune of "The King of the Cannibal Islands" in a very loud tone, the auditory taking up the chorus, the words being, "Still I have no union." He then took for his text the words "Herein is love," &c., from St. John's First Epistle. He called upon his hearers not to believe that the great scheme of human redemption was moonshine and humbug, but that, on the contrary, it was able to encircle and to convert the greatest blackguards in London. There were many ungodly persons in that hall who wanted shaking over hell for five or six minutes—if that would not convert them, nothing would. As the speaker warmed with his subject he danced up and down the platform and shouted hell and damnation with a vigour which was perfectly appalling. Every now and then he denounced the unconverted, then appealed to them to come to Christ, and in the roughest language and with the most violent gesticulation called upon those who believed that Christ had power to save to hold up their hands. About three-fourths of the audience did so; "the contrary" was not put. During the proceedings several young women whose feelings were operated upon faintly and were carried out. Mr. Weaver afterwards sang another hymn, "I've a father in a promised land," to a lively air.

Throughout the evening the audience were kept in the highest possible state of excitement, and at the close of the public services a meeting of a quieter kind was held for the reception of the unconverted.

DUELLING IN RUSSIA.—Notwithstanding the severity of the laws against duelling in the Russian Army, a meeting took place recently between Lieutenant Prince Gortschakoff and Lieutenant Baron Fitinghoff, of the Army of the Caucasus, in which the latter was shot. Three other officers—Lieutenant Schack, Sub-Lieutenant Nippa, and Ridingmaster Chomutov—were concerned in the affair as seconds and participants. According to the existing law, the four officers implicated would lose their military and social rank and their orders, and be punished with eight years' imprisonment in a fortress. The Governor of the Caucasus has, however, issued an order of the day to the army in which he makes known that a milder punishment is to be inflicted on the officers concerned. In consideration of the distinguished bravery of Prince Gortschakoff, testified by several wounds, and also of the youth of the seconds, Lieutenants Schack and Nippa, and also that the former, as a foreigner, might not perhaps have known the severity of the Russian laws concerning duelling, the two former were only sentenced to be reduced to the ranks, and to lose their orders and distinctions, but not their social position; and Nippa and Chomutov to be confined respectively for four and six months in a cased barracks.

STRANGE CASE OF POISONING.—The death by poison of a young woman named Eliza Ashe occupies the attention of Mr. Brent, the Coroner. A Mrs. Frances George has deposed that deceased was her daughter; she was the wife of a Chinese steward away at sea, and lately she had ceased to hear from him, but supported herself partly by her needle and assistance received from witnesses. She last saw her alive on the Monday night previous to her death, when she was provided with everything she needed, and was very cheerful and in excellent health. She knew of no cause for her death. Never had the slightest idea she intended committing suicide. Eliza Holloway said deceased had been her lodger a greater portion of the past six months. Last saw her alive about nine o'clock on the evening preceding her death in her own room. Afterwards heard deceased leave the house, and she must have left her in. On the following morning she was found dead in her bed. The results of a post-mortem examination clearly proved that death was occasioned by cyanide of potassium. Further evidence went to show that a stableman named Allen purchased the poison at the request of the deceased; that deceased was a person of gay life; and it appeared she took the poison while in Allen's house, which was situated in a neighbouring street. The inquest was adjourned.

THE SHIP "WARRIOR."—After more than a quarter of a million sterling has been spent upon building the gigantic armour-plated ship *Warrior* the Lords of the Admiralty have discovered that she is not the description of vessel that will combine stability with invulnerability. The following decision has been arrived at:—"She is not the vessel we could wish for; but, after laying out so much money upon her, it will be as well to see what can be made of her." In accordance with this resolution the company in whose yard the ship is building have been urged to use every possible exertion to get the ship into the water before the end of the year. Thus, while we are wasting our energies upon a doubtful experiment, the Emperor of the French has tested his *La Gloire*, the performances of which have been again reported as having given great satisfaction; and is quietly, but rapidly, constructing several other vessels on a similar plan.

MISHAP TO THE "PRINCESS ROYAL."—A serious mishap (which has been well hushed) was likely to have happened to the *Princess Royal*, 91, screw, in Portsmouth harbour, on Saturday. By the neglect of some one the wing cock of the engine-room was left open, and by degrees the ship began to settle by the head. This caused much alarm, and on investigation it was discovered that upwards of six feet of water was in the hold. Signal was immediately made for the whole of the steam reserve force to proceed on board the *Princess Royal*, and by vigorously sticking to the engines and pumps the ship was prevented sinking at her moorings. It is, perhaps, as well that this apparent carelessness should be discovered in the harbour, and sufficiently early to prevent loss of life, for had it happened at sea, in the dead of the night, a valuable ship with 800 men might have foundered, and none been left to tell the sad tale. Orders have since been issued for the engine-rooms of all the ships to be examined every evening.

HAYTI.—The subject of "coloured immigration" from the United States to Hayti is exciting a great deal of interest in the former as well as in the latter country. President Geffard is now extending to the free blacks and Indians in the United States and British North American provinces encouragement to emigrate to Hayti. He offers to each family of emigrants five carreaux of fresh and fertile land. To unmarried men, on similar conditions, two carreaux will be granted. The Government, also, will find remunerative work for those whose means will not permit them to begin immediately an independent cultivation.

FEARFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

AN awful accident occurred on Saturday morning last at a coal-mine about six miles from Newport, in Monmouthshire. The seam is called the Black Vein, and is the property of the Risca Company. At the time mentioned, soon after the men, 200 in number, had descended to their usual employment, an explosion of "firedamp" took place. Means were immediately adopted to ascertain the extent of the calamity. Numbers of men were told off to descend the pit, which they did as soon as the state of the air would allow of their proceeding with safety. Some idea was then formed of the fearful consequences of what had occurred. The works themselves were found not to have been much damaged, but harrowing were the disclosures made of the destruction of human life. Some of the poor fellows were brought to the surface immediately upon being found, and the assistance of medical men, who were summoned to the spot as soon as practicable after the explosion, was promptly and skilfully rendered. Death, however, had done his work surely in almost every instance.

During Saturday, Sunday, and Monday the search in the workings continued, and corpses were found and brought to the surface to the number of eighty. But one portion of the workings had fallen in, cutting off all communication with fifty-five other people, who must have perished by that time, making the total number of victims 135. The prevalence of damp and the destruction of all means of ventilation make the search for the bodies very tardy and difficult.

It would be premature to give currency to the statements made as to the cause of the catastrophe. The pit, however, was known to be subject to blowers of gas, and the management were cautious; but it was of little avail, for on Saturday week one of the workmen was summoned before the county magistrates of this town for taking the key of a safety-lamp into the pit; and it was deposed by the overman that two other men were detected with nails in their possession, intended, doubtless, to be used for opening the safety-lamps to obtain lights for smoking. These things show the recklessness of the men, and point, perhaps, to the origin of the explosion.

The scene of mourning which has been occasioned in the village is scarcely conceivable; to adequately describe it would be impossible, and to attempt to do so would be subjecting our readers to a poignant grief for a futile purpose. Hardly a row of cottages stand in the place but what contain one or more corpses. Belonging to one house alone, it is said, no less than eight souls are swept away; a widowed mother having now lost two sons, three brothers, and other lodgers. In another case the deaths of three sons are mourned for by their parent. In many instances father and sons lie side by side.

FANATICISM AGAINST THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.—The *Observateur* of Brussels publishes a communication from St. Trond, in Belgium, which states that a few days back, at this latter place, an extraordinary scene took place. A man exposed for sale, in a stall in the market-place, a number of Bibles of the Evangelical Society. A person bought one, stuck it on the top of a pole, sprinkled it with turpentine, and set it on fire. Whilst it was burning he loudly denounced the society for distributing Bibles.

LAW AND CRIME.

SOME time ago the following advertisement appeared in the columns of the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper:—

Scarlet Rifle Rangers.—The undersigned gives notice that he is forming the above corps under distinguished patronage. An eligible opportunity is thus offered to respectable young men who, from feelings of disappointment or from necessity, may have left other corps. It is hoped that the sanction of the War Office may be obtained for securing the services of Mr. Boucher, late Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Surrey Rifles. To get a commission make early application to William Stockbridge, Esq., tailor, Kennington-green, who will adapt old uniforms at a small charge.

Two days afterwards the same journal published an apology for the appearance of the above, which was designated as a stupid hoax perpetrated by some malicious person with the view of annoying Mr. Stockbridge. So far, then, the matter was before the public; but the public was not aware that in the brief interim the proprietor of the paper had been served with a writ, at the suit of Mr. Stockbridge, for a libel. The action thus commenced was tried before Lord Chief Baron Pollock on Friday, the 30th ult. His Lordship appears to have been in a peculiarly excellent mood for trying such a case, and uttered in the course of the hearing several short sentences characterised by strong common sense enlivened by caustic humour. Thus, Mr. Stockbridge, the plaintiff, is under cross-examination. The almost immediate issuing of the writ after the alleged libel has been admitted. "Then," asks the defendant's counsel, "all the damage which accrued to you was within two days?" "No," replies plaintiff; "I was afterwards much insulted at the ball of the London Rifle Brigade." Mr. Stockbridge is an attorney's clerk; in fact, clerk to his own attorney in the action. So Baron Pollock remarks hereon:—"When you are more advanced in your profession you will discover that is not evidence in this cause." Again, Mr. Stockbridge is careful to let it be known that he commenced the action, having previously taken counsel's opinion. Says the Chief Baron, "There are a great many counsel, and of very different sorts." This fact may be clear enough, but it is one which learned Judges, almost as a rule, affect to overlook. In the etiquette of the Bar one counsel is as good as another. We have seen an amusing illustration of this in a case where the late Commissioner Murphy insisted on the attendance of a counsel who was said to have advised a merely litigious action. The low taphouses in the neighbourhood were hunted until at length a pimpled, shirtless, ragged, disgusting personage, in a state of chronic semi-intoxication, was brought up as the counsel in question. Mr. Murphy was not, as is known, on the best terms with his Bar, and on this occasion he indulged in a little quite malice by insisting on the "learned gentleman" taking his seat among his cleanly-bewigged brethren. To return to the case of Mr. Stockbridge. Defendant's counsel argued that it could be no libel to call a lawyer's clerk a tailor. On this Baron Pollock remarks:—"I think there would be a vast deal of insolence on the part of a man who said, 'You libelled me because you call me a tailor.' It is no libel to call a man a tailor, to say that he bears his share in a respectable branch of our native industry." The plaintiff's employer, a Mr. Fryer, had on the appearance of the "libel" been disposed to discharge plaintiff from his service. "If that be true," said the Judge, "Mr. Fryer is the last attorney whom I should wish to employ." Again with respect to modern ideas of libel his Lordship stated:—

The old idea of a libel was that it was a thing which would hold a man up to ridicule, and which would have a tendency to disturb his feelings; but a more sensible, a more social, view is now taken, and every mere joke to make a laugh does not constitute a libel.

The concluding remarks of the learned Judge were as follow:—

The press has of late years gradually become more emancipated from what I may call the fetters of the law, and, if in the beginning of my address I said something about the volunteer movement, I now, in its conclusion, will say that to the press, under a proper administration, that movement owes much; and, although you must feel that the volunteer movement is entitled to our highest admiration, you must also feel that the liberty of the press has ever been respected in that place in which you now sit, and that this country owes to it everything, far above aught else, except that glorious Constitution under which we live.

The jury returned an immediate verdict for the defendant, and the *Telegraph*, in its impression of the following Monday, indulged in a not inexcusable crow of delight at its victory. The *Telegraph* recounts several actions brought against it, and thus narrates a proceeding of a kind which we have frequently exposed, but which still forms one of the most disgraceful blots of our common law.

Some time ago an individual who thought himself aggrieved by the report only of certain magisterial comments brought an action against us, and, in order to add inconvenience and expense, fixed the venue at Lewes. On the day of trial our solitors, with the eminent counsel they had retained, together with several members of our staff, and witnesses from various parts of the country, journeyed down into Sussex. They then discovered at the last moment the declaration had been withdrawn; but when the plaintiff is sought, with a view to recover our costs, he is invisible—nowhere to be found. He has played out his farce, and the main costs are left to be paid by the *Daily Telegraph*.

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